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Vol. 17, No. 19

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McGreevey introduces bill to outlaw ATM fees

WOODBRIDGE, N.J. (AP) — Mayor James McGreevey, on Feb. 7, proposed a municipal ordinance that would prohibit banks from charging non-customers fees for using their automatic teller machines.

Woodbridge is the first municipality in the state to initiate such a measure, according to the state Department of Banking and Insurance. It is to be introduced at the Feb. 22 Township Council meeting.

"In the absence of federal and state regulation, it is incumbent upon municipalities to step forward and halt excessive profiteering at the expense of consumers," said McGreevey.

The mayor said consumers are being charged twice when they use ATMs at banks other than their own. In New Jersey, customers are typically charged \$1.38 by their bank and \$1.05



Mayor Jim McGreevey

by the bank that owns the ATM, according to a U.S. Public Interest Research Group survey.

McGreevey said it only costs banks between 2 cents and 15 cents to complete a transaction for a competitor.

"It's grossly unfair to ask

McGreevey said it only costs banks between 2 cents and 15 cents to complete a transaction for a competitor.

New Jersey consumers to pay 2,430 times the cost of the transaction," he said. "This will set a benchmark of fairness."

Bill Heine, a spokesman for the state banking department, said federally chartered banks most likely will challenge the ban.

He noted the state has not yet proposed a ban on ATM fees because it would create an uneven playing field for state-chartered banks. Federally chartered banks will say they are preempted because they follow federal, not state law, and only smaller, state-chartered banks would lose the extra revenue, he said.

Pai Hill, senior vice president of First Financial Services Bank, a community bank with two branches in Woodbridge and Burlington, said the township should not be regulating bank fees.

"I don't understand why the township is getting involved with ATM fees when they are federally regulated," Hill said.

A spokeswoman for Princeton-based Summit Bank, which operates three branches in the township, would not comment.

Iowa is the only state that has a ban on ATM fees in effect, while Connecticut is fighting to uphold its ban in court. In California, the bans are on hold in San Francisco and Santa Monica while the courts consider the issue. In the meantime, fees are being placed in an escrow account.

If Newark builds it, will Tina come?

Mayor James vows in State-of-the-City Address new arena will be built



Tina Turner

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

NEWARK — "If we build it they will come," said Mayor Sharpe James last Thursday in his Annual State-of-the-City Address, referring to the influx of people who have come out and been entertained at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

An attentive standing room only crowd against the historic backdrop of the City Council Chambers was the ideal scene for a formal run-of-the-mill presentation of accomplishments.

However, James was far from ordinary in his delivery. After the crowd was momentarily roused by Raven Morrison, with his inspirational rendition of "Stand," James ignited a wave of exciting energy that set the tone for the remainder of the evening.

"Newark is still hot," James said making reference to the "best real estate" around. Boasting that 1999 was a good year and that 2000 will be even better, James leaned heavily on the accomplishments and promises made that were kept.

He proudly stated, Newark "is fiscally sound," with crime down and benefits derived from new health initiatives, all have ushered in a new spirit that has "sundered the city such monikers as the 'Renaissance' and 'Comeback City.'"

Kicking off the year 2000, James outlined eight goals that he assured will help in creating opportunity and hope for the residents and employees of Newark.

"Youth, take the lead to address their needs and concerns in conjunction with mentoring."

•Employment task force — to explore and encourage the private sector to employ residents.

- Housing initiatives — to build 2000 units of housing
- Nets Basketball arena — to seat 18,000 people
- Coca-Cola Bottling Plant — \$100 million distribution plant to open in the city of Newark
- Greater recreation, culture and additional health initiatives — with an emphasis on children.
- Mass Transit Link — \$10 million allocated by the president to see this project through.
- Waterfront development — to complement the NJPAC and



Newark Mayor Sharpe James

stadium.

Indeed, the highlight of the evening came when the mock 2002 championship basketball game staged via the two giant screens between the Nets and the Los Angeles Lakers, had everyone in the crowd wondering what was going on, with this creative hyperbole. With the New Jersey Nets game music blaring in the background, James stood on, while enlisting the crowd to imagine the contrived championship scenario.

The arena project, which

CITY continued on A7

Corzine meets with clergy to discuss issues

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

The campaign trail twists and turns every which way and an intrepid candidate never knows where it may lead him or her.

One day you're meeting and greeting parents and media representatives at a public school and the next you're rubbing elbows with the rich and powerful cultural elite.

That being the case, Senate candidate Jon Corzine met with representatives from a variety of churches and religious organizations on Feb. 1 to "outline his ideas on moving Americans forward together."

Corzine took the opportunity to reaffirm his positions on Affirmative Action, protecting minority set asides from Republican assaults, and creating a new Urban Investment Bank to bring economic opportunity to inner cities. Corzine also took the opportunity to speak out on the issue his political opponent, former Governor Jim Florio has characterized as his only point of opposition on their candidacies.

"Mr. Florio forgets to state that Social Security is guaranteed," he said. "It's pay as you go. There's no risk of benefits not being paid."

Corzine said the changing demographics of the country and the workforce — in terms of the number of retired persons to working people — make it imperative that the issue of Social Security funding be addressed now, while it is still manageable. He said in 1958 the ratio was eight-to-one; today it is four-to-one; and by 2020 it will be one-to-one and three-quarters.

"If we don't do something now to fix Social Security we will be forced to turn it into a pension-based system," he said. "All I am suggesting is let's begin the process before it's a crisis. This is not rocket science."

Corzine said once again for the record that he believes the death penalty is the highest form of racial profiling in the country, he doesn't believe in quotas, but feels we need to make the benefits of being an American universally available to every American, and his belief in the idea of community regardless of race, color, creed or socioeconomic status.

Corzine has already received the formal endorsement of the Essex County Democratic Committee, and a number of its current and former members were on hand at the event.

"I love this man," said Mayor Bowser of East Orange. "We need to represent him and represent him well. All you have to do is talk to him once or twice and you see that he's sincere. He will represent us well."

Former Newark Mayor Ken Gibson said he believes Corzine is eminently qualified to represent New Jersey in the Senate because of his accomplishments in the business world and his proven leadership skills.

Corzine's campaign slogan is "It's time to get bold things done." He said he is a citizen, not a politician and he wants to be

CORZINE continued on A7

Jersey City youth death haunts city, officials

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

There are those who say ghosts are really the disembodied spirits of people who died under suspect circumstances, now doomed to walk the Earth until they right the wrongs which led to their demise.

Superstition or not, that certainly seems to be the case with 15-year-old Michael Anglin, whose death at the hands of police in Jersey City has caused an uprising in the community that doesn't show any signs of abating.

"I just want people to know that even though I am a police officer I do not believe what happened to Michael Anglin was right," said Keith Brown, president of the Inter-Departmental Political Action Council, which represents the black officers on the Jersey City Police force.

Outraged residents and community leaders have called on famed attorney Johnnie Cochran to represent Anglin's family. Community leaders said Cochran has assured them he will look into the case and assist any local lawyers who take it. They also said a formal request has been sent to Governor Christine Whitman and Senate and Congressional representatives asking state and federal agencies to look into the shooting of Anglin because they don't believe justice will be served otherwise.

"If police could police other police then we wouldn't be here," said Rev. Herbert Daughtry of the National Black United Front during a rally in Anglin's memory at Bethesda Baptist Church on Feb. 8. "They always say there are just a few bad apples, but if you don't get rid of the bad apples they'll corrupt the whole orchard. I just wonder what would happen if black police officers



Supporters of the Anglin family gather outside of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church to talk with Hudson County First Assistant Prosecutor Terrence Hull about the circumstances surrounding the suspicious shooting.

Ministerial Alliance — which took place at Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. He was joined by the meeting by Hudson County Prosecutor Fred Therning, Police Director Michael Moriarty, Deputy Director Jim Shamburg and other law enforcement personnel.

"As long as that sentiment is out there it's making people reluctant to come forward and give us the information," he said. "There were two car accidents before the shooting: one on Arlington Avenue and one on Bayview Avenue. Clearly people had the opportunity to run to the witness."

One of those people was Rev. Tyrone Chess of Holy Ghost Tabernacle Ministry who lives in the area where the shooting and accidents occurred. He said that night at 11:15 p.m. people came and rang his bell because they thought his son was involved.

"My son was in the bed asleep at 11:15 p.m., but at no time did they ever say that someone was shot," he said. "I'm hoping some eyewitnesses will come forward because the prosecutor said what

the papers state and what they hear from the community is not corresponding, so we hope they will come forth."

Hull said a number of people have come forward on their own, a police canvassing of the area has also turned up eyewitnesses, and as late as the night of Feb. 8, someone called his office to say he had seen the incident.

"I'm sure there may be other people out there that saw this incident," he said. "In order for

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the papers state and what they hear from the community is not corresponding, so we hope they will come forth."



City News incorrectly juxtaposed the above photo depicting police officers being promoted with a story of "Six police officers indicted." City News apologizes for the insensitive rendered to the fine work Newark police officers perform daily.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

NEWARK - Bro Eric Ture Muhammad, Founder of The Black African Holocaust Council presents "The African Slave History of New Jersey, Pt. 2" at 7:00 p.m., The WISOM Mansion, Free Admission. For more information, call (973) 287-1275 or (718) 596-7569.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

NEWARK - A jazz concert, lecture and reception featuring Steve Colson Quintet will be held at the Newark Museum at 7:30 p.m.

EAST RUTHERFORD - Winter Festival 2000. Family Fun indoor carnival. Winter theme rides, games, contests with great prizes and a live jazz concert. In the Meadowlands Racetrack, 50 State Route 120. For further information call (201) 943-2446.

FEBRUARY 19

NEWARK - Essex County College presents the Shirelles at 7:30 p.m. in The Mary Burch Theater. For ticket information and reservations call (973)-877-4420.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

ELIZABETH - The Elizabeth Playhouse presents "Nothing But The Truth" Show time is at 2:00 p.m. Tickets located at 1100 East Jersey Street. For reservations call (908)-355-0077.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

MOUNTAINSIDE - February Festivities will be held at the TrailSide Nature & Science Center located at 452 New Providence Road. "The Journey Of Sap To Syrup." See how 100 % real maple syrup is made, and what equipment is needed. Fee is \$3.00/person. For further information call (908) 789-3670.

MOUNTAINSIDE - Wildlife Watch- Walk our trails to search for wildlife that appear at dusk. In the reservation. For families and children 6 and up. Event begins at 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Fee is \$3.00 per person. For further information call (908) 789-3670.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

MOUNTAINSIDE - Planetarium Show-The Sky Inside. Explore the day and nighttime sky with your preschoolers. Learn about the movement of the sun and moon. For children 4-5 years of age with adult, fee \$3.00/person. Show begins at 11:11-11:45 a.m. You pay at the door. For further information call (908) 789-3670.

MOUNTAINSIDE - Fantasy, Illusion and Magic-Magician, Joe Fischer will astound, baffle, delight and thrill your audience participation. Show time is at 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. For families, ages 4 & up. Fee is \$4.00 per person.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Concert (Rutgers Jazz Ensemble) located at Nicholas Music Center Rutgers University. Concert begins at 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$7-14. For further information call Mason Gross School of Arts at (732)-932-7511.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

NEW BRUNSWICK - Two family law attorneys will examine divorce law in a free public seminar titled, "What Everyone Should Know About Child Custody, Child Support and Grandparents Rights." The seminar will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the NJ Law Center (off Ryders Lane). For more information call (609) FREE-LAW.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

NEWARK - "Rodgers and Hammerstein's * The King & I, For more information call (973)-536-7448.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

NEWARK - The Newark Museum presents After Hours Jazz. The Melissa Walker Quintet show will begin at 5:30 p.m. For more information call (973)-596-6550 or (800)-7-MUSEUM.

NEW YORK - Dillon Gallery is presenting "THE HORSE" This is the last day it will be viewing. For more information call (212)-966-2977.

MORRISTOWN - The Backfred Theater at the Morris Museum on 6 Normandy Heights Road will present Celtic Riddle Festival with Ireland's Kevin Burke, Scotland's Johnny Cunningham, and Britain's Christian McAlister, along with the renowned Breton guitarist Solig Sibert. Show time is 8:00 p.m. For further information call (908) 786-9696.

PATERSON - Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council at Passaic County Community College present Collective Expression by Myrna Loy & Amir Alweiss. At LRC Gallery, reception is at 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. Broadway Gallery. Gallery is located at One College Boulevard, Paterson, NJ 08705-1179. For further information call (973) 684-5448.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Theater-Lambda Night Series for the gay and lesbian community viewing at the George Street Playhouse located at 9 Livingston Avenue. Show time is at 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. For further information and ticket cost call (732) 246-7717.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

NEWARK - San Francisco Symphony-Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor. This event is a part of the AT&T Orchestra. Concert starts at 8 p.m. For more information call Prudential Hall at (973)-297-5834.

MOUNTAINSIDE - Snakes Of New Jersey. Meet TrailSide's live snakes and learn some surprising serpentine facts. Observe a snake feeding. Show will begin at 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. For families and children 6 and up. Fee is \$3.00 per person. For further information call (908) 789-3670.

NEWARK - Women United In Conjunction With National Sisters In The Life Production Presents Pre-Women's History Month. Fashion and African American Entertainment, located at 1028 Broad Street. Doors open @ 9 p.m. Models Wanted. Tickets \$20.00 @ Door \$25.00. VIP TICKETS \$30.00. W3 Free Drinks. Free Buffet. For further information call (973) 624-1584.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

CAPE MAY - Mid Atlantic Center For the Arts is sponsoring a tour that will begin at the Washington Street Mall Information Booth located at Washington and Ocean Street. The tour will start 12noon - 3 p.m. For more information call (609)-884-5404 or (800)-275-4278.

NEWARK - The Newark Museum is planning a workshop for African American Artists Series. Guest starring artist Gladys Basler Graver on Saturday at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m. For more information call (973)-596-6550.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Comedian, Bill Cosby appears at The State Theatre located at 15 Livingston Avenue, 3p.m.-8p.m. Ticket cost is \$35.00. For further information call NJ Symphony Orchestra 800-ALLEGRO.

Kenya student comes to U.S. via Bloomfield to better community



BLOOMFIELD - Twenty-nine year old Mary Kanau is a student in Bloomfield College's Child Development Associate program, working as a social worker and assistant manager of Mathura Community Outreach, a Christian community development organization to help her acquire knowledge to serve hundreds of children in her homeland of Nairobi, Kenya.

Plainfield's Allison Serries honored by Union Freeholders Board



ELIZABETH - Allison Serries, a sophomore at Plainfield High School, received a Resolution from the Union County Freeholders presented by Freeholder Lewis Mungo (D) for her achievements. Serries was being honored for activities in soccer, volleyball, the performing arts and robotics team, her church and school choir, and for finishing third runner-up in the Miss New Jersey Teen Pageant last summer.

Transit execs and congressman speak about minority issues



NEW YORK - Port Authority Executive Director Robert E. Boyle (left) was joined by Congressman Gregory W. Meeks (D-Queens) and Sandra Morina-Davis, president of the agency's Network of Black Employees, at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast. During the breakfast, Meeks outlined what he believed are challenges facing minority community in the new millennium.

Dr. Harold M. Davis, MD, honored by Babyland Family Services, Inc.



WEST ORANGE - Harold M. Davis, M.D., was awarded the Humanitarian Award by Babyland Family Services, Inc., a non-profit child and family services agency serving inner city children in Essex County. Davis is the senior vice president and chief ethics officer at Prudential Insurance Company of America. Davis, who attended Wesleyan University and Yale University Medical School, joined the company in 1987.

Reach thousands in the black community and place your ad here! Call City News at (973) 642-4400 and speak to an advertisement representative about the various ways you can reach Black New Jersey.

Black quotes to live by...

"You can't get too high for someone to bring you down."

Billie Holiday, jazz singer (1915-1959)

taken from "Maryland's African-American Heritage" website
http://history.khinet.net/1916/6.htm.html

Black History Moments



Billie Holiday
1915-1959

Billie Holiday was born Eleanora Fagan on April 7, 1915 in Baltimore, Md. to a father who was a guitarist.

Holiday gained exposure to the world of jazz music as a child running errands for her father. Seeing the likes of Louis Armstrong, Mahalia Jackson, and Bessie Smith, Holiday soon became interested in a career for herself.

She started singing professionally in Harlem in the early 1930s, and by 1940 was a household name, playing with Artie Shaw and Count Basie. Her career came to an end when she overdosed on drugs on July 17, 1959.

McDonald's Celebrates Black History Month

IT PAYS TO KNOW BLACK HISTORY!
Answer these 10 questions and you could WIN A PREMIER FAMILY CRUISE!

Just answer these 10 questions about Black history on our postcard. Send it in by March 19, 2000 to P.O. Box 834, Leontine, IL 60525. All those who correctly answer all 10 correctly will be placed in a drawing for a 7-night cruise for four from NYC to New England/Canada on Premier Cruise Line's Big Red Ship. Do it today! Don't miss the boat!

1. Who was the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court?
2. Who was the first African American to win the PGA Masters Tournament?
3. Which African-American musician was considered to be the "Ambassador to the World"?
4. Which African American holds the NFL record for career fumbles?
5. Which African American was considered "The Greatest" and dominated boxing for 20 years?
6. Who was the first African-American woman in space?
7. Who was the first African American to become a presidential candidate?
8. Which African American was the first Black senator since Reconstruction?
9. Who was the first pharaoh of Egypt?
10. Outside of the U.S., which two countries produced safe havens on the "Underground Railroad"?

No purchase necessary. Entries must be received by March 19, 2000. Visit participating McDonald's for rules, answers and details.

did somebody say



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NATIONAL BRIEFS

RHODE ISLAND LAUNCHES INQUIRY INTO OFFICER'S DEATH

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The FBI opened a preliminary civil rights inquiry Monday into the death of Providence police Sgt. Cornel Young Jr., a black officer shot by two white fellow policemen who mistook him for a suspect.

The same day, Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse, under intense public pressure to agree to an independent review of the case, said he is forming a criminal investigative team to help the grand jury looking into Young's death.

Civil rights leaders have asked Whitehouse to step aside to remove any chance of bias from his ties to the law enforcement community. The prosecutor refused.

"In law enforcement, it's often a mistake to do things for the public reaction," Whitehouse said. "It's more important to make it right. Because when the dust settles, there's a criminal defendant with their life in our hands."

Young, 40, died in a street shooting, was shot more than a week ago when he saw a gunman confronting two officers outside Fidas Restaurant and rushed to help. His father, Maj. Cornel Young, is the highest-ranking black police officer in the city force.

The Rhode Island Minority Police Association held a news conference Monday urging the police department to address racism in the 470-member department, which employs 33 blacks.

CROSS BURNER GETS NINE YEARS IN PRISON

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — A man who burned a cross on the lawn of his neighbors, an interracial couple, was sentenced to nine years in prison.

Edgar R. Barfield, 33, admitted that he and two teen-agers made a crude cross and burned it last July after drinking tequila, smoking marijuana and cutting marks out of white sheets. Circuit Judge Frederick Lowe said Monday that hate crimes like Barfield's set back society. He gave Barfield four years for cross-burning and conspiracy, four years for wearing a mask in public and one year for two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Barfield's accomplices, 15 and 16, both were convicted of burning a cross and conspiracy and sentenced to 60 days each in juvenile detention.

Police say Barfield may have been a member of the Ku Klux Klan but Barfield denies that.

FBI TO REOPEN 1964 CIVIL RIGHTS KILLINGS CASE

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP) — The FBI has reopened its investigation into the deaths of two civil rights workers who were allegedly killed by the Ku Klux Klan in 1964.

The agency decided to reopen the murder case of Charles Eddie Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee after The Clarion-Ledger reported Jan. 14 that the killings took place on federal land, according to Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol reports.

The FBI had not been aware of possible federal jurisdiction in the case. "The case has been reopened," FBI spokeswoman Deborah Madden said Monday. Moore's brother praised the agency's action.

"Yes, I was led back then, but people are trying to make it right now," said Tom Moore, a counselor of troubled youth in Colorado Springs. "I'm just thrilled to death. I'm going home to tell my son."

The new probe into the killings of Moore and Dee is the second crime of the past the FBI has decided to reinvestigate in recent months. In November, FBI agents and federal prosecutors began to reinvestigate the 1966 killing of Ben Chester White after learning that he was killed near Natchez in the Homochitto National Forest.

Although the House Un-American Activities Committee questioned at least five men in connection with the killings of Dee and Moore, only two men were arrested — James Ford Seale, then a 29-year-old truck driver, and Charles Marcus Edwards, then a 31-year-old paper mill worker.

Three months after their November 1964 arrests, authorities dismissed those charges, and the case was closed. In recent interviews, both Seale and Edwards insisted on their innocence.

Internet site aimed to increase minority participation on the web

By Anick Jedanun

NEW YORK (AP) — An Internet site devoted to the lifestyles and culture of black Americans debuts this week as part of an effort to make the online experience less of a World Wide Web.

BET.com, launching on Monday, joins several sites aimed at encouraging ethnic and minority populations to connect to the Internet and narrow the "digital divide" between the technological haves and have-nots.

Robert Johnson, chairman and founder of BET Holdings, believes content is the key. He says technology and cost are less of a challenge than "creating the lure and the hook that there is a destination site."

"Once we market and promote it that way," he said, "I think the digital divide issue will go away."

In a report last summer, the Commerce Department found that whites are more

likely to have Internet access than black and Hispanic Americans. President Bill Clinton proposed a \$2 billion package last week to expand access to computers and the Internet.

Although policy-makers blame income disparities for the digital divide, Johnson faults attitude, citing the declining prices of computers. He hopes to offer compelling features relevant to black Americans in order to encourage them to connect to the Net.

"I don't know that by providing content minorities will just get on the Internet, but I do agree content is a big impetus for motivating them."

Holdings is getting \$35 million from MicroSoft Corp. and three major media companies, as well as cooperation from two major black organizations.

Complaints of white bias in the U.S. media are not new.

Minorities have long accused newsmen of failing to reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. This season, TV networks were accused



of featuring too few minority characters on shows.

"Until recently, it's mostly white males who have shaped the Internet, and they decided what the people will see and hear online," said Barry Cooper, founder and chief executive of BlackVoices.com. "Racism and racism have nothing to do with it."

While there are other sites that target black communities, Hispanics, Asians, American

Indians, Jews and gays, many of them have limited offerings.

One site, for example, focuses on Hispanic real estate, offering services in Spanish and information on low-interest loans for minorities.

BET.com will offer features on black celebrities and trends, along with tailored information on health, food and finances.

Later this year, it plans to expand into online shopping for products such as books and

music by black artists.

Content and access are linked in the eyes of Darien Dash, whose company provides technology services for minority communities.

"I don't know that by providing content minorities will just get on the Internet, but I do agree content is a big impetus for motivating them," he said.

Efforts underway to get better minority participation in census

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — With government funding and the potential for losing at least one U.S. House seat based on the 2000 census, officials are scurrying to recruit people and gather money to persuade city residents to be counted.

Census takers likely will have a rough time ahead of them this year trying to increase survey participation in Philadelphia, where some poor and minority neighborhoods' response rate has been lower than 10 percent.

In the last national count in 1990, observers estimated that Hispanics and Latinos were

undercounted by at least 5 percent, blacks by 4.5 percent and American Indians by 12.5 percent.

To ensure that doesn't happen again, 4,000 people from all city neighborhoods who speak various languages will be paid about \$15-per-hour to knock on doors and convince Philadelphia residents to be counted by the census, said Fernando E. Amato, director of the regional census office in Philadelphia. In addition, thousands of dollars will be spent over the next few months on local advertising.

Help make the Black community count!



The Census Bureau will begin training 20 high school students Monday to pass out flyers, instructional videos, posters, even key chains and little bean-

bag balls.

"There are areas of North Philly where the response rate was less than 10 percent. What does that say? We have a lot of work to do," said Lydia Hernandez Voles, a lawyer who was signed by the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania to lead Philadelphia's Complete Count Committee.

In the inner-city Asian communities, getting the message across can be difficult.

"Some people are skeptical about why the government wants to count people," said Cambodian native Samien Nal, executive

director of the Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition. "We came from a culture that distrusts the government."

Similar problems exist in the black community.

"They think it's the Big Brother thing. They're going to be in your business. But I try to be powerful about letting people know that you don't get a second chance. All that money we lose for 10 years. It's important that we break through that phobia," said Anthony Lewis of the Housing Association of Delaware Valley.

National Park Service look into Statue of Liberty's racial origins



By Tom Kirschefer

BOSTON (AP) — The Statue of Liberty has long stood as a beacon of hope to immigrants. But National Park Service researchers are looking into the possibility that Lady Liberty may have been intended, at least in part, as a monument to freed black slaves.

And if that's true, it could lead to a change in how the park service portrays the 114-year-old monument's history.

An unsecured text began appearing on the Internet several years ago and quickly spread the theory that the widely accepted history of the Statue of Liberty is not true, says Rebecca M. Joseph, a Boston-based park service anthropologist.

The Internet report said that the statue "was intended as a monument to the abolition of slavery in the United States and that the original model was a black woman," according to Joseph.

The park service's official history of the Statue of Liberty holds it was proposed by French historian Edouard Laboulaye in 1865 to commemorate the friendship between France and the United States born during the Revolutionary War.

But Laboulaye was also a leader of the French abolitionist movement with a commitment to fighting slavery, notes Diane H. Dayton, the statue's superintendent.

Black History Is Truly Uplifting!



When you build upon an illustrious past, true greatness is within your grasp.

Malcolm X Day

I think its a you know what shame that when it comes to observance of great black individuals and significant times in the black experience—to this date there is only one black holiday—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—and we had to fight like hell to get that one. Let's see, we have George Washington and Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Thanksgiving (honoring Pilgrims), Memorial and Veterans Day (implemented to honor white soldiers). The Fourth of July, appropriately known as "Independence Day," for who? It certainly had nothing to do with anyone black, although black soldiers took up the cause and fought in the war to free the 13 colonies from British rule. There are the Christian religious holidays, Labor Day, oh and let's not forget Columbus Day, who, truth-be-told didn't discover America, but receives all the glory for putting it on the map. White supremacy has mandated and dictated what's important in the lives and experiences of black people for too long. I say its about time we honor people like Malcolm X, whose birthday is Feb. 19, for being the MAN, who did not bow to whiteness. The MAN, who spoke the words and thoughts of Negroes, who were afraid to let their be known. The MAN who represented all that was correct — a loving -nd supportive family man, a MAN with true religious convictions, a MAN of supreme intellect, a MAN who was exceptionally charming and handsomely statured. White folks need to recognize, to the chagrin of their race that men like Malcolm, Frederick Douglass, and even like Harriet Tubman and Mary McLeod Bethune, are worthy of recognition outside of Black History Month. If Columbus can have a day, these individuals are certainly deserving of one too!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Witness" Modern day lynching is alive and well in these United States of America as we enter the year 2000. Now they dress in suits and wear black robes and hide behind their badge and gun.

Modern day lynching occur with blessing of the U.S. Judicial System in its many forms. Racial profiling, changing venue, mandatory sentencing, police brutality, growth of industrial prison complex, queueing man shooting, criminal profiling, druggings/burnings/beheadings of black bodies, creation of children prisons, and the elaborate network of social control.

Modern day lynching is symbolized in the flying of the confederate flag, whether represent hatred, slavery and the lynching

of black American ancestors. Now, today's descendants of the confederate flag are filled with the hatred of their ancestors and they expect it very well grapple with the atrocities of killing their classmates, their newborn babies, homosexual killings and grudge human beings.

It appears that they learned very well as children watching from the lynch mob as they saw mutilated black folks swing from trees. A collection of photos are not needed to tell the story because modern day lynching is alive and well in these United States of America in the year 2000

Respectfully,
William Frazer

It's time for black folks to stand up and be counted

By Hamadi El Bashir

(NPNP) — It is time to stand up and be counted for the 2000 U.S. Census. Once every 10 years, Americans are required to fill out a questionnaire and return it to the Census Bureau. Census Day is April 1.

The information from the questionnaires is used to determine household compositions and to establish populations for apportionment and redistricting purposes. At stake in the once-decade population count is approximately \$185 billion in federal aid distributed by the federal government to states, cities and local communities, as well as the redrawing of congressional district lines according to new population data.

An accurate count is key to distributing federal dollars to people who need money the most. According to the officials at the Bureau, the 1990 census missed approximately 4 million people. African-Americans and Latinos, whose undercount was about five percent greater than whites, were disproportionately affected.

In the 1990 Census fiasco, millions of dollars were lost," said Hilary Shelton, director of the National Bureau of the NAACP. "In the Richmond, Virginia public school system, for example, 11,000 students were not counted. This meant that \$11 million was lost to Richmond schools. At an average of \$2.5 million for a new school building,

the school system took a tremendous loss."

For a variety of reasons, the percentage of households returning census forms has declined from 85 percent in 1970 to 75 percent in 1980 and 65 percent in 1990. In an effort to get more Americans to fill out and mail in their questionnaires, the Bureau initiated a \$167 million advertising campaign in television, radio and print media, which began in November, with a special appeal to Latinos, African-Americans, and Native-Americans.

The pitch is that participation in the census gives people a voice and a better chance of receiving government dollars and programs, which are apportioned to the basis of population. The slogan is "Answer The Census. We're Counting On You." The primary reason black people might be underrepresented in the census is that there are not enough enumerators being sent out to those communities; and that the enumerators that are sent out might not be familiar enough with the neighborhoods," said Shelton. "Another reason is that some poor blacks are dependent upon federal aid, and if they complete the forms incorrectly or not according to federal standards, their benefits could be diminished (so) they don't want to give up that information. They need to be assured that their census information will remain confidential."

By Manning Marble

In the Dred Scott decision of 1857, the Supreme Court turned down a petition for freedom from an enslaved African American.

The author of the court's ruling, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, declared that blacks could never be granted equal protection under the law or civil rights, because they were inherently inferior to whites, and forever would be.

Taney observed that "the unhappy black race," had always "been excluded from civilized governments and the family of nations, and doomed to slavery. Negroes were beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations, and so far inferior that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect."

The infamous Dred Scott decision reaffirmed the fundamental legal condition of African Americans, not as citizens or human beings, but as property. Black people were to be treated by law enforcement officers and the courts primarily based on the color of their skin. Yet despite the nearly 150 years since the Dred Scott decision, African Americans still encounter nearly identical racist attitudes from the police and the courts.

Among thousands of cases in recent years that make this point one of the best is provided by certain bizarre events in Ontario, New York, in 1992. A 17-year-old white woman phoned the Ontario police that she had been attacked by a burglar. She was unable to see the man's face, but she thought the assailant was a black man who may have cut his hair or arm with the knife used in the robbery.

This was all the "evidence" the police needed. Every African American male in the town was taken to the police station, where American men and boys waiting for public transportation were all stopped and interrogated.

Black men found riding in automobiles were pulled over and questioned. Local and state police then demanded that academic officials at the State University of New York at Oswego campus turn over a list of all black male students.

Students were interrogated, and checked for wounds. Finding no suspects, the cops began questioning every African American they could find both in and around the city of Ontario. Everyone stopped was innocent, and the assailant was not apprehended.

Civil rights and civil liberties groups were appalled by these police state tactics.

Taney observed that 'the unhappy black race,' had always 'been excluded from civilized governments and the family of nations, and doomed to slavery. Negroes were beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations; and so far inferior that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect.'

and the state's Governor at that time, Mario Cuomo, apologized for the official misconduct. Several black people filed a lawsuit, charging that cops had blatantly violated their civil rights.

Last year, a three-judge panel from the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments in the case, and made a decision in favor of the police. In its ruling, the judges affirmed the racial dragnet used to identify, stop and interrogate only black men did not violate their Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable search and seizure, nor their Fourteenth Amendment Rights to equal protection, regardless of race. The court recognized that the hundreds of innocent people who had been humiliated and violated by the police might feel a sense of frustration. "Neverthe-

less, the court declared that the police sweep was not racially discriminatory because the cops were acting on a physical description of the suspect that included more than racial identity."

The Ontario case of 1999 was so outrageous that even the New York Times editorialized that the federal appeals court's decision could mean that police are free to treat every black person they see on the streets as a potential suspect, so long as there is a pending complaint that a black person committed a crime. "In effect, this ruling gives police the right to stop, question, and harass any black person, anywhere and anytime! If they have an allegation that a black person somewhere committed a crime."

However, the Ontario case is also representative and indicative of the hundreds of indiscriminate and routine stops and searches that happen to blacks and Latinos in every U.S. city every day. A recent report of the New York Attorney General's Office on racial disparities in street searches by the New York City Police Department provides more evidence.

The study was based on a thorough review of 175,000 documented cases in which individuals were stopped by the New York police over a 15-month period in 1998-1999. The statistics found that African Americans were stopped six times more often than whites, and Latinos were stopped four times more frequently than whites. Blacks composed 25 percent of New York City's total population but are one half of all the people police stopped.

Dred Scott is unfortunately still alive and well in America's racist criminal justice system. Despite all the legal and legislative reforms, apparently African Americans still have "no rights which whites must respect."

Dr. Manning Marble is Professor of History and Political Science, and the Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at the University of Maryland. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge to over 325 publications throughout the U.S. and internationally.

Donna Brazile and the Politics of Personal Destruction

By Kevin Martin

Donna Brazile, Al Gore's presidential campaign manager, recently sought to breathe new life into the floundering campaign by playing the race card. She attacked top black Republican Congressman J. C. Watts and retired General Curtis LeMay, charging that they and their party have no programs to feed poor children and would rather take pictures with them than feed them.

Both Watts and Powell fired angry letters to Gore, who defended Brazile's actions. Later, however, Gore sought to smooth things over with a telephone call to Powell, saying he had nothing but respect for Powell and his work with American children.

Brazile's actions were an example of the politics of personal destruction, made famous during President Clinton's impeachment when Democrats staged their media-fueled rally for Clinton in the White House Rose Garden just after a telephone call to Powell.

Brazile's actions did not raise any eyebrows among the press. Back in 1988, Mike Dukakis fired Brazile for accusing then-Vice President George Bush of running a campaign because of the Willie Horton commercials and for spreading rumors that Bush had an affair outside of his marriage.

Bill Clinton, seeking to escape the shadow of Bill Clinton and jumpstart his campaign, hired Brazile despite her past proclivities to play the race card. When the Washington Post asked Brazile what she would do for the Gore campaign, she said she would "make sure the campaign and the election did not fall into the hands of 'white boys.'"

Brazile further stated that blacks, women and others have made all types of gains during the Clinton and Gore Administration. Well, Miss Brazile, you must have missed the Dec. 9 USA Today that ran the headline "White House Missing Voices," and reported there is little or no diversity among the Clinton White House elite.

While Clinton's cabinet might "look like America," racially, his closest advisors are actually limited to white men. Miss Brazile, I challenge you to ask the Democratic leadership on Capitol Hill about the lack of blacks in leadership positions.

You may also have forgotten that Clinton honored General Colin Powell for his work with American children. It is not the Republicans, by the way, who are obligated to feed poor children, but their parents. I challenge you to drive to the poorest areas of any city and count the so-called poor walking around with leather coats, Tommy Hilfinger pants and \$150 tennis shoes. Can you tell me why children there are going hungry when they and their parents are so well dressed?

I challenge you, Miss Brazile, to tell me what gains blacks have made under Clinton and Gore. The only gains blacks seemed to have mattered to the Democrats in the last seven years was in 1998 when Clinton was fighting for his life during impeachment.

Democrats used scare tactics to get voters to vote on a mostly white Republican would cut funding to the poorest of poor areas and cut school lunch programs. I challenge you to question your fellow Democrats on why they oppose tax money being used to send poor children to private schools.

The bottom line is that, in each election, Democrats lose more middle-class black votes to Republicans because the Democratic message is the same old story, warmed over. J.C. Watts may be the lone black Republican in the House, but he holds a powerful leadership position.

General Powell was the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, chosen by Republican President Bush. Alan Keyes is currently running for president under the Republican banner for the second time.

So, Miss Brazile, with all that I have pointed out, which party seems to be friendlier to blacks?

In 1992, President Bush's reelection bid captured 10% of the black vote — a new first for a Republican. Both George W. Bush and John McCain have a good chance of capturing the same amount or more this year.

More and more blacks are seeing the Democratic Party in an unfavorable light due to the actions of Bill Clinton and Al Gore over the last several years. Miss Brazile, I challenge you to put the politics of personal destruction behind you and try to find issues for your party other than race.

Kevin Martin is a member of Project 21 serving the United States Navy. He can be reached at kevinm@ameritel.net. To request a copy of this or any other New Nations Commentary be sent to you by e-mail, please send your request to Project21@nationalnet.org.

'The conspiracy theories are not far fetched'

By Shabaka Ra Shakur

The black community is being imprisoned by alarming rates. Recent debates over proving (driving while black) has highlighted only one of numerous discriminatory practices responsible for the grossly disproportionate rate of black people in prison. Black communities must begin to question this phenomenon. Conspiracy theories are not

as far fetched as some would have us believe. The fact is, prisons are out business and "prisons are the economically sound business. The industrial sector's drive to privatize prisons is a good indicator of its bottom line potential for profit. It is undeniable the certain parties in the criminal justice system have much to gain from insuring that the prisoner labor pool remains

ample. Likewise the political mileage gained by climbing aboard the "war on crime" bandwagon has many bureaucrats

basically equating imprisonment with crime prevention. That we should, as black people, believe that greedy capitalist and manipulative politicians are above is asking too much. Prisons are not some bright on the fringes of civilized society. The politics of

prison have become the social reality of black people in America. Ignoring the problem will only have genocidal consequences. Let's stop crime by addressing the conditions that generate crime not by depopulating our black communities or warehousing our black children.

Shabaka Ra Shakur is a prison inmate at Southport Correctional Facility in Pine City, New York.

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Founded in 1983

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

PLAINFIELD - United National Bank presents a workshop on writing business plans to you know where you're going from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the United National Bank Community Education Center. For more information, call (908) 753-7364.

NEW YORK - National Minority Business Council, Inc. invites you to attend its 20th Annual Business Awards Luncheon at the New York Hilton Hotel and Towers from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

NEWARK - The U.S. Small Business Administration presents a seminar on "E-Commerce" from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Two Gateway Center. For more information, call (973) 945-2434.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An Annual Meeting, Board of Directors and National Membership of Dialogue on Diversity will be held. For more information, visit their Website: www.dialogueondiversity.org

TRENTON - The Entrepreneurial Institute will hold a class from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Human Resource Development Institute, 200 Wolverton Avenue. For more information, call (609) 232-9297.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

PLAINFIELD - The Entrepreneurial Training Institute will hold a class from 6 to 9 p.m. at Union County College, 232 East Second Street, Plainfield. For more information, call (908) 232-9297.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

TRENTON - The Second Annual Black Executive Corporate Awards Reception "The Contents of Our Character" will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Masonic Temple. For more information, call (609) 393-5933.

NEW BRUNSWICK/ISCATWAY - "Making Sibling Teams Work: The Next Generation?" Rutgers Family Business Forum Workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Cook Campus Center, Bel Road. For further information contact Stacy B. Hersh at (732) 932-7084 ext. 616.

Prudential presents Young Entrepreneur program



(Left to right) Pat Priolo from Prudential presents Anthony Emmanuel with the Prudential Entrepreneur Program's Entrepreneurial Achievement Award.

Clingman, noted economic strategist has a plan for Newark

NEWARK — Noted economic strategist, James Clingman will deliver his message of economic empowerment in Newark on Feb. 20, at Euphoric Cafe at 17 Academy Street at 1 p.m. Clingman, who attended the Million Man March, was prompted to resign from his post as editor of the Cincinnati Herald, after witnessing this remarkable event.

"Once I returned to Cincinnati, I got busy," said Clingman, who is a featured columnist for City News. "With the motivation of seeing thousands of brothers coming together in Washington, I was moved to establish The Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce (CAACC)."

Today the CAACC has 600 member businesses, an operating budget of a million dollars and has recently purchased its

own building. Besides laying the foundation for black business development in Cincinnati, Clingman's brand of building urban businesses has caught on in 20 other cities. He travels to assist in establishing chambers wherever there is a need.

Clingman has been writing a weekly column for the past few years and is well read in over 200 black newspapers throughout the country. His book, "Economic Empowerment: We Have a Choice," will be available for purchase at the event.

Diana B. Bees, "The Meadow Queen," a master herbalist for over 20 years will be an extra added attraction at the afternoon affair, along with the R&B female vocal group Jus Us.

In conjunction with Black History Month, the backdrop of black memorabilia being fea-

NEWARK — Thirty-nine Essex County students were recently honored for completing the first phase of The Prudential Young Entrepreneur program (PYEP), during a recognition ceremony held at the William J. Hazell Conference Center at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

PYEP, a comprehensive entrepreneurial development and job creation program offered free to young people between 18-30, was created and funded by a \$5 million Prudential Foundation grant.

The Prudential Young Entrepreneur Program was created by the Foundation to help young people achieve self sufficiency and to give young business leaders of tomorrow, the opportunity to conceive, plan and establish small businesses of their very own," said Prudential's Foundation Chair Michele Darling.

The program is currently being offered in Newark and Philadelphia. The Prudential Foundation grant was awarded

to the Association for Enterprise Opportunity, which administers the program and coordinates the efforts of the other partner organizations involved in PYEP. These organizations include the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), which created the programs curriculum; two urban business incubator programs; The Enterprise Development

"Prudential Young Entrepreneur Program was created by the Foundation to help young people achieve self sufficiency and to give young business leaders of tomorrow, the opportunity to conceive, plan and establish small businesses of their very own."

Center at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark and the Enterprise Center in Philadelphia, and the Greater Newark Business Development Consortium, a micro-lender for small businesses.

received nine weeks of classroom instruction, on-going mentoring and the opportunity to apply for start-up loans of up to \$15,000. The graduates will submit their business plans to The Enterprise Development Center, which will continue to work with the participants, assisting in financial, legal, marketing and strategic planning work as they begin their businesses or obtain employment.

A recent survey conducted by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) revealed that entrepreneurship is a major contributing factor to a country's economic well being, both in terms of economic growth and job creation. In fact, small businesses are vital to reallocating the state's resources and injecting new ideas into the economy with business starts and stops. It is estimated that 16 million Americans are right now trying to start a business of their own - Newark is fertile ground for entrepreneurs into the new millennium.

Richard Zahn to be honored at Business Awards Luncheon

NEW YORK - The National Minority Business Council, Inc. will be holding its 20th Annual Business Awards Luncheon on Feb. 17, at the New York Hilton Hotel and Towers in New York City. The Council will honor several minority owned and Fortune 500 companies and individuals for their outstanding contributions to the growth of minority business in America. It is also celebrating 28 years of service to the minority and women business communities.



Richard W. Zahn

Richard W. Zahn, president of Schering Laboratories, the U.S. pharmaceutical marketing unit of Schering-Plough Corporation, will be the luncheon chairman and keynote speaker. The 1999 awardes for Outstanding Corporate Support are Philip Morris Companies, and Pepsi Cola Companies with \$1 billion each in minority purchases, and the Hertz Group, with \$685 million in purchases from minority firms.

The Outstanding Minority Business Firms are: Ariel Capital Management, a Chicago-based money management company; Flowerwoods Landscape Service, a Brooklyn based landscaping and floral company; and Select Group Inc., software developers located in Long Island, New York. The

International Business Award goes to The Williams Capital Group, investment bankers based in New York City. The Outstanding Technology Award goes to the Maryland-based company Notoom Solutions International. The Kip Business Report, a New York City business newspaper, is the awardee for Outstanding Media.

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Religion

CITY NEWS A6

February 16 — February 22, 2000

POSITIVELY BLACK
by Junious Ricardo Stanton

Make yourself what you will

"God and nature first made us what we are, and then out of our own creative genius we make ourselves what we want to be. Follow always that great law." Marcus Garvey

We have a moral obligation to the creator, our ancestors, ourselves and our progeny to develop the self-awareness and confidence to actualize our potential and make of ourselves what we want to be. We were not put here to be subordinate beings, hewers of wood and haulers of water for others.

Our ancestors ruled the planet as stewards for the creator. They fashioned great civilizations, invented science, art, music and governments. They lived in relative peace and harmony with each other and the environment. How is it we, their descendants, are unwilling to envision a world where we call the shots and set the agenda?

Garvey electrified the African world with his call "Up you mighty race. You can accomplish what you will." He was impelled to rekindle in the hearts and minds of Africans throughout the Diaspora the desire to return to our traditional greatness, to have a land of our own to govern ourselves, and to stand tall and proud among the human family.

Garvey realized we all are endowed with creative genius, and we have the responsibility to activate, harness and use it to serve and assist us in becoming all that we are capable of becoming and doing. Far from far more formal education and social status than Garvey scoffed at him because they lacked his vision for a free motherland and self-actualizing sons and daughters of Africa. Their petty minds couldn't see beyond their ego or their status to think in original terms, to think outside the box of racial stereotype, caste, oppression and domination. They couldn't understand how or why Garvey captured the imagination of the masses. They failed to realize he was touching and tapping a deep reservoir of hopes, aspirations and longings to be self-actualizing human beings rather than caricatures and figments of the oppressor's vile imagination.

I often say it wasn't Garvey's failure to surround himself with competent and trustworthy followers who shared his dreams or the collaboration of his rivals with colonial powers that led to his downfall. It was that few of our people shared his vision. Nevertheless, his ideal live on. His words speak truth and the great law is real. God and nature have made us what we are and it is up to us to make ourselves into what we desire to be. The questions we must ask are: are we satisfied with what we are, do we think and feel God and nature have been just and gracious? If so, what do we think is possible for ourselves, our people and the world? If we think God has been cruel and stingy or withheld blessings and talents, then what? What do we expect of ourselves? What will we settle for?

I believe omnity has blessed us beyond measure. We have no idea how blessed and gifted we really are. The creative genius Garvey spoke of is truly awesome. We have yet to scratch its surface. Discover and activate your creative genius. Make of yourself what you will.

Shirelles' Donna Kenner-Jackson, dead at 58

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Doris Kenner-Jackson, whose group the Shirelles provided pop-rock with some of its most memorable songs, including "Baby It's You" and "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow," has died of cancer complications. She was 58.

Jackson died at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center on Friday, her cousin Evelyn Jackson said from her home in Goldsboro, N.C. The singer, who had breast cancer, was hospitalized that day with complications.

The Shirelles, composed of Jackson, Shirley Alston Reeves, Beverly Lee and the late Addie "Micki" Harris, began their career at a high school talent show in Passaic, N.J., in 1957, singing their own composition, "I Met Him on Sunday."

A classmate who heard them told her mother, independent record producer Florence Greenberg, who helped them record the song the following year. Aided by legendary producer Phil Spector, they turned out a string of hits through the early '60s, including "Tonight's the Night," "Soldier Boy," "Mama

Said" and "Dedicated to the One I Love," the latter featuring Jackson on lead vocal.

Their songs, like those of several other popular "girl groups" of the early '60s, including Spector's Ronettes, were notable for their tight harmonies, bouncy, upbeat lyrics and lush musical arrangements known as Spector's "Wall of Sound."

The Shirelles also earned a distinction as a role model to other stars who grew up listening to them. Dionne Warwick has said they taught her how to "move on stage," and the group has also been cited as the first all-girl group to score a number one hit in the early Rock and Roll era of music.

"Baby It's You," would be covered by the Beatles a few years later, while the Mammas said Papa would have a hit with "Dedicated to the One I Love." Jackson, who was born in North Carolina, moved to New Jersey as a child. She began singing in church and with friends.

Survivors include her daughter, three sons, two sisters and a brother.



The present Shirelles, with original member Beverly Lee, planned to perform at Essex County College on February 19.

Stevie Wonder helps say good bye to Thomas Bowles

DETROIT (AP) — Motown musician Thomas "Boss" Bowles got off to a good start at a funeral that drew saxophones, trumpets and trombones — and a performance by Stevie Wonder.

"This is a celebration of an angel on Earth. It is also a celebration of a true spirit," Wonder said during Saturday's

funeral for Bowles. The baritone saxophonist died Jan. 28 after a 10-year battle with prostate cancer. He was 73.

Bowles was a baritone saxophonist who played on several Motown hits and helped design the traveling Motown Revue.

During services at Central United Methodist Church, Wonder played the Duke

Ellington song "Satin Doll" for the standing-room-only crowd. He said he considered Bowles "a teacher and also a father."

A group of about 25 musicians, dubbed "The Friends of Beane Orchestra" playing in front of Bowles casket, leading the family processional in a New Orleans-style ceremony.



Stevie Wonder

Rapper Big Pun succumbs to apparent heart attack at 27

By Sharon L. Cresson

NEW YORK (AP) — Christopher Rice, the platinum-selling rapper known as Big Pun who was respected for his imaginative lyrics and smooth delivery, died Monday. He was 27.

A spokeswoman at White Plains Hospital said Rice was pronounced dead at 3:53 p.m., and the cause of death was to be determined by the medical examiner. Publicist David Granoff, who represented the rapper, said it appeared Rice died of a heart attack.

"He was beloved, and admired, and accomplished, and rich," Granoff said, adding that his performer's second album, "Yeah, Baby," was due out in April.

Granoff credited Rice, who was Puerto Rican, with working to bring Latino entertainers into rap, a style traditionally dominated by black artists.

The rap world started to take notice of Rice — whose stage name was short for Big Punisher

after appearances with fellow rapper Pat D'Arcy and feature on The Mix Tape Vol. 1, put together by Funkmaster Flex. His street hit "You Ain't a Killer" was featured on the "Soul in the Hole" soundtrack and his first album, "Capital Punishment" went double-platinum.

"Big Pun possessed a lyrical gift of incoherent breath control and a knockout punch with the rhymes," a reviewer wrote in his biography for anymusic.com.

Known earlier in his career as Big Mo, the entertainer was once an avid basketball player and boxer, but later said he took to eating "until he couldn't fit his shoelaces."

Jimmy Rodriguez, a longtime friend, said he would be missed. "Anybody that knew or ever came in contact with Big Pun would have walked away saying that they just walked away from a gentle giant," Rodriguez said.

"He was so special," Rodriguez said. "He was so special."

Rice, who lived in the Bronx, was survived by his wife Liza, and

three young children: Christopher, Vanessa, and Amanda. Funeral arrangements were being made for Wednesday.



Big Punisher

Hezekiah Walker, Bronx Ensemble to perform at Lehman Concert Hall

NEW YORK — Fleet Bank and Lehman Center are proud to present a very special free event in celebration of Black History Month—Hezekiah Walker and The Love Fellowship Crusade Choir. The Bronx Arts Ensemble Orchestra, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m. at the Lehman Concert Hall in the Bronx.

Hezekiah Walker, founder of Love Fellowship Crusade Choir, is a survivor of a harsh, inner-city upbringing. Raised in a home where the sounds of Gospel music filled the air, and in church, where he began singing solos at the age of eight, he founded his choir 15 years ago, and has received Grammy Award, numerous Dove and Soul Train award nominations. The group has been featured on TV's The Today Show; they have backed such performers as Whitney Houston and Sean "Puffy" Combs; and they were featured on the soundtrack for the film "The Preacher's Wife" with Cuba Gooding Jr.

The Bronx Arts Ensemble in residence at Fordham University, has long been one of the borough's most popular and respected music and orchestral performing groups. Under the direction of William Scribner, the Ensemble presents concerts throughout the Bronx which are both affordable and reflective of the diversity of its audience. The Ensemble will be performing gospel favorites and works by Duke Ellington, W.C. Handy, and Scott Joplin. For information call (718) 960-8833.

Prayer Corner Let's Pray

Dear Lord, I thank You for this day. I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me. Keep me safe from all danger and harm. Let me start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day and give my best in all that is put before me.

Clear my mind that I can bear the burden of my sin. Let me think that I can accept all things. Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. Let me continue to see sin through God's eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, let me repent, and confess my wrong doing, and receive the forgiveness of God. And when this world closes in on me, let me remember Jesus' example — to stay calm and find a quiet place to pray. It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can't pray, I listen to my heart. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. I pray for those that are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those that are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who refuse to share a word from You. I pray for those that will read this and not use it in their lives. I pray for those that don't believe. But I believe. I believe that God changes people and God changes things. I pray for all my sisters and brothers. This is my prayer. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word: Gospel news to use

LONG BRANCH — St. Luke's United Methodist Church located on Broadway and Washington Street will feature area guests to participate in its worship services commemorating Black History Month. All services start at 10:45 a.m. the public is invited, all events are free and a soul-food treat will be served after the worship service. Rev.

Hampton Williamson is the presiding pastor. Sunday, Feb. 20, Randolph Murray — National recording soloist will perform.

Saturday, Feb. 26, The combined choir of St. Mary's Street United Methodist Church of Burlington with director Sheila Williamson Carson.

Sunday, Feb. 27, Adrian

Bakus director of special projects at Princeton Theological Seminary and renown pianist and choir director Vivian Ladson.

Mr. Right Now, has been rescheduled and is now available on video. For all who did not see this emotionally charged play starring Lawrence Hilton Jacobs (aka Jackson) written and

directed by David E. Talbert, the first ever gospel stage play on video is now available. Filled with comedy, romance, inspiration, and unforgettable music, Mr. Right Now is the passionate and heartfelt story of a good-looking, God-fearing, single mother desperately seeking Mr. Right. Its running time is 140 minutes and 3,000 priced at \$19.98 on the Website

of www.gospwalk.com. **MAK Gospel 2000** is the latest in millennium calendars featuring some of the hottest names on the gospel scene. A sleek calendar profiling the likes of Kirk Franklin, Walter Hawkins, The McClark Project, Tramine Hawkins, Trin-Tee 567 and others. Available for 17.98 through the above website.

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Michelle R. Galt, Coordinator Christine Whitman, Counselor

RELIGION CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20
MONTCLAIR — Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church holds evening vigil mass 6 p.m. (973) 744-1074. EAST ORANGE — Our Lady Help of Christians Inc. evening mass, 5 p.m. (973) 673-1111. NEWARK — Our Lady Catholic Church holds evening mass, 6 p.m. (973) 482-6663. MONTCLAIR — Immaculate Conception Catholic Church holds evening mass, 6 p.m. (973) 38-1111. FRIED, FEBRUARY 18 NEWARK — Leonard Jeffries, Professor of African Studies City College, NYC, will give a FREE lecture on Black History at Metropolitan Baptist Church, 11 Springfield Avenue in Newark. Lecture begins at 7:30 pm. For more information call (973) 842-2267.	NEWARK — First Mt. Zion Baptist Church located at 186-190 Thomas Street in Newark. Rev. L. Ronald Durham (pastor) invites you to attend "Black History Month Service" featuring a good-looking, God-fearing, single mother desperately seeking Mr. Right. Its running time is 140 minutes and 3,000 priced at \$19.98 on the Website MANHATTAN — The Riverside Church located at 160 Riverside Drive/between 123rd and 122nd Street, presents "He Touched Me: The Annual Riverside Inspirational Choir Concert." Concert begins at 3:00 p.m. Suggested donation Adults: \$10.00/Seniors \$5.00 & students. For further information call (212) 670-6722.

Send your church or mosque news or calendar information to the City News! Fax to: (973) 642-5444

Local Briefs

NJ HISTORIC GRANTS AVAILABLE

NEW BRUNSWICK — The New Jersey Historic Trust has announced that applications for grants, ranging from \$5,000 to \$750,000, are available for the restoration, rehabilitation, stabilization and management of historic sites. Non-profit organizations and units of county and municipal governments may apply. Properties must be listed, or be eligible for listing, in the New Jersey or National Register of Historic Places. The application deadline is April 24. A workshop for grant applicants is planned for Feb. 18, at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. Award recommendations will be announced at a public meeting on September 14.

CARABALLO AND GILL SPONSOR PROPERTY TAX AID BILL

TRENTON — A measure to provide property tax aid to municipalities sponsored by Assembly Associate Minority Leader William Caraballo and Assembly Democratic Whip Neil M. Cohen was passed today by the Senate. The bill (S-1547) would create a tax payment program to reimburse municipalities for property taxes that are not collected on designated tax-exempt properties. The properties the state would reimburse include group homes for developmentally disabled or mentally ill, community residence for the developmentally disabled, community shelters for victims of domestic violence or a residence for persons with head injuries. "Towns and local school districts that host these sites need property tax relief," said Caraballo (D-South Orange). "Property taxes have been my top priority since I first arrived in Trenton and getting property tax aid for these towns is one way to help the community and taxpayers." The second sponsor of the bill said, "Montclair" Municipalities should not be penalized by the state when non-profit organizations use their homes for helping the disabled and mentally disadvantaged.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE CRACKS DOWN ON MISLEADING ADS

TRENTON — The Assembly Consumer Affairs and Regulated Professions Committee released legislation that would crack down on retailers who lure customers with misleading advertisements of marked-down prices that are available only through rebates. Assemblymen Neil M. Cohen (D-Union) and Anthony Imprevuto (D-Rutland) are the sponsors of the measure (A-1103), which would require retailers to provide the rebate discounts at the point of sale. This is a truth-in-pricing measure that will protect both the public and legitimate, honest retailers, Cohen said. "Customers are being duped into believing they will pay a discounted price for merchandise when in fact, they have to pay full price for the privilege of embarking on a wild-goose chase after a manufacturer's rebate," he said. "This legislation simply states that in order to advertise an item at a certain price, you must sell it at that price." "Rebates are frequently being misused as a bait and switch by some unscrupulous retailers," said Imprevuto. "On top of all the other hassles of shopping, consumers shouldn't have to worry about getting scammed by unscrupulous retailers." The bill's language specifically prohibits a retailer from advertising a product for sale with a manufacturer's rebate at a certain price unless the rebate is available when the product is purchased.

Do you have local news to share? We want to know! send it to: Local News c/o CITY NEWS 111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F Newark, NJ 07102

Elizabeth gets \$30,000 donation for library renovations

ELIZABETH — Mayor Chris Bollwage today accepted a \$30,000 donation from Liberty Water Company for construction on the Elizabeth Public Library located on Broad Street. With this donation, the main library will undergo internal and structural repair. According to Andrew Chapman, President, President of Liberty Water Company, "we are proud to have the opportunity to contribute to this worthwhile project and to assist the city of Elizabeth Library in reaching its fundraising goal."

Funds raised by the Elizabeth Public Library will be used to renovate the upper floor of the library through further construction, furnishings and new computers. The Main Public Library is still looking to raise \$200,000 to reach their fundraising goal.

"We are making the Elizabeth Public Library the state's best urban library," said Mayor Chris Bollwage. "We will continue to provide our residents with the most comprehensive service possible."

This past March, the Elizabeth Public Library was deemed as an Internet Highlight. Moving forward in its mission, the Elizabeth Public Library continues to act as a regional leader in providing cutting-edge informational technology to the public.

children, no stone should be left unturned," Stanley said in calling for legislative hearings to examine the state's financial failures in Newark. "The \$58 million budget hole is the latest example of the failure in the state's program for taking over troubled urban school districts."

"The takeover program is more about public relations than tangible results," said Stanley. "It's clear that state education officials are more concerned in tearing down urban school districts than bringing them back to life."

The state places too much emphasis of being punitive rather than being constructive when taking over an urban school system," Stanley said. A legislative panel could get to the bottom of the problems in the Newark takeover by calling in responsible parties such as former Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz and former takeover Superintendent Beverly Hall to testify.

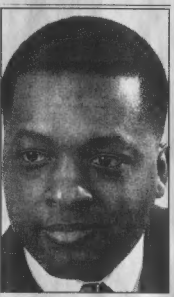
"We need to determine who is at fault for this Klag-mire," said Stanley. "We need to determine why \$2 million worth of utility bills were stuffed into a Newark budget office drawer with no record showing if they had been paid. We need to know why Beverly Hall's team failed to pay Social Security taxes during the last two years of her tenure — a mistake that resulted in a million dollar federal fine."

Stanley accused the state Department of Education of applying a tougher standard of oversight to local school districts that operate without state intervention, while state-appointed officials in control of



Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage talked about the renovations to take place in the town's library.

The \$58 million question: Where's the money in state takeover of Newark schools



Assemblyman Craig A. Stanley

TRENTON — Accusing state education officials of engaging in dual-standard of local school management, Assemblyman Craig A. Stanley recently called for the establishment of a wide ranging legislative probe into the \$58 million Newark school budget deficit and the failure of the state's schools takeover team to address the district's financial woes.

Stanley (D-Essex), a member of the Assembly Education Committee, said the hearing should be complemented by an investigation mounted by state auditor Richard Fair, who would assess the lack of accountability in the state's takeover operations. Stanley recommended that the Joint Committee on Public Schools conduct the legislative inquiry.

When the issue is taxpayer money and the education of

responsible parties such as former Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz and former takeover Superintendent Beverly Hall to testify.

"We need to determine who is at fault for this Klag-mire," said Stanley. "We need to determine why \$2 million worth of utility bills were stuffed into a Newark budget office drawer with no record showing if they had been paid. We need to know why Beverly Hall's team failed to pay Social Security taxes during the last two years of her tenure — a mistake that resulted in a million dollar federal fine."

Stanley accused the state Department of Education of applying a tougher standard of oversight to local school districts that operate without state intervention, while state-appointed officials in control of

takeover districts are subjected to considerably less scrutiny. "There is a dual standard here that is appalling," said Stanley. "Districts are put through the proverbial bureaucratic wringer when seeking supplemental state school aid, but state officials in charge of takeover districts are treated with kid gloves."

Citing similarities with the Whitman administration's handling of the Parsons auto inspection debacle, Stanley said a truly independent legislative investigation is warranted in the case of \$58 million Newark budget deficit.

"An administration-run investigation would be tantamount to the fox guarding the chicken coop," said Stanley.

NJPAC dance residency adds component to curriculum to help 24 statewide schools

NJPAC adds component to new state curriculum

NEWARK — The first Professional Development Workshop in support of New Jersey Performing Arts Center's (NJPAC) Dance Academy residency program was recently held at the Arts Center.

Students and teachers from 24 New Jersey schools attended a performance including dancers from the New Jersey Tap Ensemble, Umjia Dance Company, New Jersey Ballet and the Alfred Gullman Dance Theater in NJPAC's Prudential Hall to kick off the Dance Academy's Spring 2000 program. After the performance, students had the opportunity to meet with dancers who will be their residency teaching artists.

This spring's program

riculum areas.

For students, residency goals include the cultivation of awareness and appreciation of dance education as a core subject offered during a regular school day, "encourages students to express themselves creatively and develop their own artistic personal, aesthetic and critical responses to their own work and to that of others."

Other components of the residency include a workshop for parents to participate with their children and attendance by students at two performances at NJPAC (kickoff plus one schooltime dance program). At the conclusion of the residency, students will present a lecture demonstration for their parents and peers.

NJPAC's Spring 2000 Dance Academy teachers

School in Verona, Brookdale Avenue School, F.N. Brown School, Forest Avenue School, and Laning Avenue School, in Orange, Central Elementary School, Forest Street School,

Orange Alternative High School and Orange High School, in Hoboken, Elysian Charter School, in Irvington, Mount Vernon Avenue School, in Jersey City, P.S. No. 29, in

Plainfield, Stillman Elementary School and Washington School, in Saddle River, Wandell School, in Short Hills, Winston School.

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will involve 1,063 students in schools in Short Hills, Newark, Saddle River, Verona, Orange, Irvington, Jersey City, Plainfield, Hoboken and Union City. Dance Academy, sponsored by the Geraldine R. Dodge and Biddleman Foundations, is offered to schools statewide.

The residency program, which provides schools with two one-hour classes in ballet, tap, West African and modern dance per week in each, will help 42 teachers of the third and fourth grades address new Core Curriculum and Outcomes Standards in the Performing Arts. In addition to addressing these standards through residency curriculum materials and at least two Professional Development Workshops, the program assists educators in utilizing the arts in other

include: Alfred Gall of Bronx, modern dance; Gregory Hinton of Bronx, modern dance; Joanne Koob Brown of Teaneck, modern dance; M. Dewey Bechler of Mine Hill, African dance; Wilhelmina Taylor of Brooklyn, African dance; Constantino Casanova of Kearny, ballet; Sandy Dries of Bloomfield, modern dance; Irene Fitzpatrick of Sparta, modern dance; and Delsa Hubbard of East Orange, African dance.

The schools participating in the program will include: Newark Alexander Street School, Ann Street School, Dr. Martin Luther King School, Eighteenth Avenue School, Science & Technology, Lafayette Street School, South Street School, Warren Street School of Visual & Performing Arts and Wilson Avenue

Deposits FDIC insured to \$100,000

CityLife

February 16-February 22, 2000

City News B1

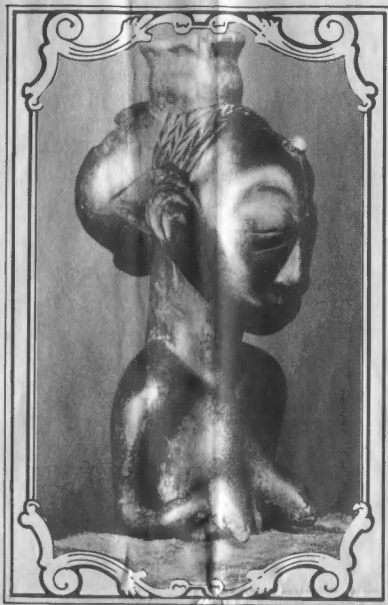
CityArts



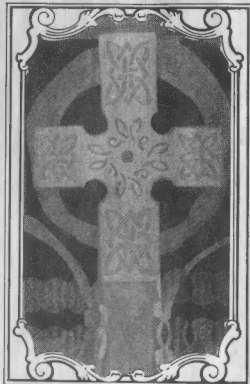
The Watchung Arts Center will feature the work of Fermin Martinez. Mondays through Saturdays between 1-4 p.m. throughout February at 18 Stirling Road, in Watchung.



"The Fourth Annual Black Artists' Exhibition" will run from 5-7:30 p.m. on Feb. 18 at Summit Bancorp Headquarters on 301-Carnegie Center, Princeton. Some of the artists to be featured include Robert Carter, John Garcon, Michael Gyampo, John Mubiru, Aundrea N. Wright, Maria R. Owens, and Hannan Saleh.



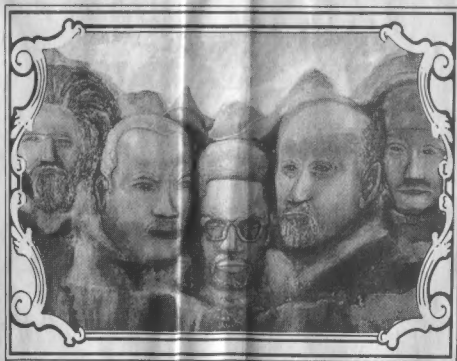
"Perfect Documents: Walker Evans and African Art 1935" will take place at the Metropolitan Museum of Art through Sept. 3 in New York.



"Surviving Symbols," an exhibition of paintings by Gloria Rodriguez and Christina Sai, will be held through Feb. 19 at the Westminster Gallery in Bloomfield College. Gallery hours hour Monday-Thursday 1-4:30 p.m., and Friday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



"The Art Show," presented by the Art Dealers Association of America will take place on Feb. 24-28 at The Seventh Regiment Armory, Park Avenue at 67th Street, New York.



"Collective Expressions" will present paintings by Myrna Loy and a mixed media presentation by Anika Akwetee at the LRC Gallery until Feb. 24 at One College Boulevard in Paterson. Hours are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

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**EXHIBITS
PROFILING
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THE BLACK
EXPERIENCE
THROUGH THEIR
WORKS.**

Black History Month. join the celebration!

A calender of events

FEBRUARY 16-29

New Jersey City University presents, "Images of Haiti" Artworks from the Collections of Audrean Bratton. The opening reception — on Feb. 16 — and the exhibit will run until March 10, in the Harold B. Lemmerman Gallery in Hepburn Hall Room 223 Kennedy Boulevard. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Curated by Bratton, an art dealer, curator and former gallery owner whose Haitian art collection is one of the most outstanding in the world, the exhibit will feature more than 40 works. On Feb. 22, Rosa Clemente will speak on "Africa's Presence in Latin America" in Hepburn Hall Room 202 from 5-6:30 p.m. On Feb. 26, Dr. Kit Kim Holder will be among the speaker at "Lessons in Resistance Workshop/Roundtable Discussion," Hepburn Hall Room 202 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Feb. 29 "Celebrating Our Children" at the Student Union, North Lounge from 5-7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 20-27

New Jersey State Museum presents, Carl Overton will use the exhibition of African American quilts as the inspiration for Young Explorers to learn more about African American history and the quilting tradition. Post Craig E. Burgess and Young Explorers will create poetry using the exhibition of quilts as their inspiration. On Feb. 27 Audreita Wright will use the exhibition of African American quilts as the inspiration for the Young Explorers to use felt in creating their own quilt piece.

February 21

People's Organization for Progress presents, an opportunity for all to participate in ensuring reparations for the descendants of Africans enslaved in the United States comes a reality. POP will lead a rally at the U.S. Federal Courthouse at Foley



Square in New York City. There will be a procession to the African burial ground and a rally will be held on Wall Street, where many slaves were bought and sold. To reserve your seat on the bus and to get further information call (973) 643-7711. The bus departs at 10 a.m. from the WISOMMM Mansion at 53 Lincoln Park, Newark.

FEBRUARY 22

Monmouth University presents, artist John Brown whose art gallery "El Lobo Negro" (Black Wolf) which is located in Asbury Park, will showcase an informative presentation entitled "Sacred Common Ground, the Cultural Link Between African Americans and Native Americans." Wilson Hall will be the site for his presentation at 4:30 p.m. for more information call (732) 571-7577.

William Paterson University presents, "Martin Luther King Jr., and Malcolm X: A Comparison of Two."

FEBRUARY 25

The Alliance of Black Lucent Employees presents, "Honoring the Past, Creating Opportunities for the Future," bridging a rich cultural heritage with a focus on an exciting future. Songs, poems, and a guest speaker will provide an educational and enlightening experience for all ages. The event will take place at 55 Corporate Dr. Bridgewater, from 5:30 to 8:45 p.m.

FEBRUARY 26

Stone Square Lodge No. 38 Plainfield presents, Seventh Annual Black History Month Celebration with keynote speaker Giles R. Wright at the Plainfield



Dale Caldwell

Public Library on Park Ave. and W. Eighth St. at 2 p.m. For additional information call Howard Smith (212) 775-0036.

Rutgers University presents, "An Evening of Gospel Choirs at Douglass College" at 7 p.m. in the Voorhees Chapel, will again feature the Lumzy sisters of Mississippi. Dale Caldwell, CEO of Crossroads Theater, will deliver the keynote address in recogni-

tion of Black History Month. Master of Ceremonies will be Deacon S. Waits, host of "The Road to Glory," a radio gospel show that airs on WHCR-FM. Other acts on this inspirational show will include: The mass choir of Antioch Christian Church in New Brunswick and the Hill Sisters of the Bronx, N.Y.

FEBRUARY 27

Comcast Network CNS presents, "Living Witnesses" in their own words explores Black History and racial tension in a unique way at 8 p.m. CNS will shed light on the Black Panther Party, Founding Chairman Bobby Seale reveals never before heard information about his group and its mission. Started in 1966 with its Ten Point Program, the Black Panther Party helped bring preventative health clinics, free breakfast for school children and cooperative housing to Oakland, California. Seale provides first hand accounts of the civil turbulence of the late '60s and early '70s. Besides Seale, the program will feature Kathleen Cleaver, former Black Panther Party Communications Secretary; Audrey Jones, Deputy Chair, Black Panther Party; and Jesse Jackson, Civil Rights leader, and Black Panther sympathizer.

Regina Jennings, former member of party and Jamal Joseph, this show is produced by Marvin Day and Candace Kelley (Newsmakers anchor).

Dr. Lenworth Gunther talks about diversity and a changing workforce at Prudential

by Chris Sykes



Dr. Lenworth Gunther

A company like Prudential is always looking for that competitive edge over the competition that will help maintain their position atop the insurance world, and when it comes to diversity in its workforce they believe their edge lies in achieving Excellence through Determination, Growth and Empowerment.

"I believe in the power of people, all people," said John Fox, a Prudential executive. "We want to create an environment of trust and respect by understanding the differences in diversity."

Fox also acted as one of the Executive Sponsors of this year's Minority Interchange Black History Month 2000 Celebration.

Minority Interchange is a not-for-profit, multifaceted professional development organization and one of Prudential's Business Resource Groups.

Prudential hosted the opening ceremonies for the celebration in two separate events: the first on Feb. 1 featuring historical author and educator Dr. Lenworth Gunther in Newark, and the second at their Roseland facility featuring Jamie Foster Brown, the publisher of Sister 2 Sister Magazine and author of "Betty Shabazz: A Sister's Friend's Tribute In Words and Pictures."

According to the Prudential employees who attended the ceremonies, this year's events were a huge success, especially Gunther's appearance in Newark.

"In the introduction they said

likewise employed by Prudential brings something to the table. He said history is alive — "there's nothing dead about history."

"100 years ago this wouldn't have happened," Gunther said. "The company, like its people are dynamic. The company's changing, growing and adapting and you can see that in terms of the audience."

Gunther said he has speaking engagements this month at Merck and Merrill Lynch.

"I think it's critical that we all value each others' differences and together we make a stronger community for ourselves and our company," said Joyce Leibowitz, another one of the ceremony's Executive Sponsors.

"We've been celebrating Black History Month for a number of years, but this year, thanks to Marilyn Crawford, we have more external speakers and the most exciting program in our history," she said.

Those programs include a workshop by Saul Hicks, a four-time winner of Prudential's Agent of the Year Award.

Hicks happens to be black, and Leibowitz said "He is just an inspiring person who says if you think you can do it, set goals and you can do it," she said.

"That's what we want to do here together," she said.

Leibowitz said Prudential and its employees must understand that a diverse community is their customer base.

Leibowitz said they encourage every single employee to look in the mirror and see their customers in themselves.

it was food for thought, but I got wisdom and understanding," said Judy Langford who heard him speak for the first time. "He's a very positive role model that I will follow and I would like to hear him speak again."

Joyce Pinckney, a Prudential employee who has heard Gunther speak on two other occasions, said she can't get enough of him.

Gunther was very appreciative of the praises heaped on him by the Prudential employees.

"It's an honor. The last time I spoke here was 10 years ago," he said. "It's nice to be invited back to recognize one of the streams of consciousness of our greater culture. To recognize one is to recognize all."

Gunther said every person in attendance at the ceremony and

past, present and future
a history of accomplishment
to inspire a new millennium



Art by Eric D. Salisbury ©2000 "Untitled"

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

NORDSTROM

HeartBeat

Heartbeat Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

JERSEY CITY — Jersey City Medical Center is pleased to announce a Support Group for Newly-Diagnosed Breast Cancer Patients from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Support Group will meet every second Wednesday of the every month. For more information, call (201) 915-2000.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

NEWS BRUNSWICK — St. Peter's University Hospital is holding a NICU Parent Support Group held in the teaching room of the Intensive Care Nursery at St. Peter's University Hospital located at 254 Easton Avenue. For more information, call (732) 745-8800 ext. 8858.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — The next Caregiver/Alzheimer Support Group of Runnels Specialized Hospital of Union County will meet from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Family Conference Room. For more information, call (908) 771-5534.

TEANECK — The Women's Outpatient Center's Mid-Life Management Program offers a free lecture on "Getting Physical - Body movement and the way it affects you" from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Marian Hall. For more information, call (201) 833-7100.

SADDLEBROOK — The Ais Clinic atessler Institute for Rehabilitation is offering a support group that provides information and resources when free treatment program to help them provide for the future. The program will be from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call Kayvan Freeman at (708) 243-6550.

NEW BRUNSWICK — New Brunswick Community Center on Huntington St. is doing blood pressure screenings at 10 a.m. For more information, call Gary Rogers at St. Peter's University Hospital (732) 745-8828.

TEANECK — "Getting Physical" body moving techniques to stay fit past 40. Program will be held at Marian Hall from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information, call (201) 833-7100.

Tobacco, African Americans, and Madison Ave.

Part 3 of 4

During the 1940's, tobacco companies like R.J. Reynolds and Philip Morris were among the first major corporate advertisers in the African American press. Their sophisticated marketing laid the foundation for the seduction and addiction of an unsuspecting race of people.

Alluring Images

According to a major study entitled "Smoking and African Americans" by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (1992), tobacco companies advertising in black newspapers and magazines during the late '40s and early '50s typically profiled prominent African Americans. A full-page Philip Morris ad in the January 1949 issue of Ebony magazine proclaimed in bold block type across the top of the page, "Doctors Suggest Them." Under the headline is a photo of a refined, urbane black man in an expensive-looking suit, holding a cigarette. The copy reads "Mr. William R. Ming, Jr., law professor and veteran of World War II has had a distinguished career since his admittance to the Illinois bar in 1933... Philip Morris has been his favorite cigarette for years."

Another ad featured gold medal Olympian Jesse Owens. At the same time, the tobacco companies were among the first major American firms to use African American models. For example, an Ebony magazine ad in March 1949 shows a close-up of a smiling young black woman togetherness down a snow-covered hill. The headline reads "Smoke a Lucky - to feel your Level best!" In smaller type "Lucky's fine tobacco picks you up when you're low... calms you down when you're tense."

Menthol Phenomenon

In the early 1980s, two menthol brands were introduced — Philip Morris Spud and Brown & Williamson's Kool Menthol, a chemical compound extracted



from the peppermint plant and medically classified as a mild anesthetic, numbs the throat to mask cigarette irritants.

By 1963, menthol's market share increased to 16 percent and, by 1976, to 28 percent. It became clear to tobacco companies that this increase in menthol popularity was largely due to blacks' consumption of menthol cigarettes.

Observing this trend, tobacco companies set about marketing these brands to African Americans in the early '60s. Utilizing words like "refreshing" and "soothing," ads in numerous black publications featured good-looking black couples engaged in leisure activities.

Sophisticated Targeting

During the 1970's, tobacco companies became even more adept at targeting African Americans. According to a February 6, 1978 "Los Angeles Times" article, Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., released several internal tobacco industry documents illustrating how tobacco companies marketed their products to blacks.

For example, a 1973 R.J. Reynolds marketing profile included a study of black smokers ages 14 through 20 and a 1973 Brown & Williamson report on blacks revealed that 16- through 25-year-olds accounted for the bulk of increases in sales of Kools.

A third document released by Rep. Conyers was a

1978 Lorillard Tobacco Co study that called the success of its Newport brand "fantastic during the past few years," and emphasized that "the base of our business is the high school student."

Because cigarette advertising was banned from radio and television in 1971, tobacco companies used research to help formulate print and outdoor ads. By the late '70s, tobacco companies had become a reliable source of advertising revenue for black publications with national ads for menthol cigarettes providing a significant source of revenue.

In addition, tobacco companies began heavier use of billboards and "transit advertising" in bus, train, and subway stations. And, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation study

"eight-sheets" or "junior billboard" emerged as a major advertising tool, often tacked on the side of buildings in poor communities.

Such guerrilla marketing tactics paid off. By the mid-1980s, about three-fourths of all African American smokers consumed menthol brands, as much as 10 percent of all advertising in African American magazines were cigarette ads and billboard and transit tobacco ads were disproportionately placed in major African inner-cities.

Attitude Shift

In light of recent public sentiment against tobacco, several African American publications are reviewing their tobacco advertising policies. Various African American community groups in California — including the African American Tobacco Education Network — have joined forces to educate their communities about the health risks of tobacco. And four California cities — Compton, Carson, San Francisco and Oakland — have laws banning tobacco billboards within city limits.

Still, decades of deliberate, targeted marketing to African American communities have taken their toll. A recent survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta reveals a dramatic increase in smoking rates among African American teens. Once relatively low, national cigarette smoking rates for black teens have doubled from 1991 to 1997, reversing an earlier trend when smoking rates for this group were declining. In California, the African American teen smoking rate has risen, but it is still lower than the rates of any other ethnic group.

Nonetheless, because tobacco use is a risk factor for heart disease, cancer and stroke and leading causes of death among African Americans — these recent trends can be seen as dire portents of a potential health holocaust within black communities.

Kean, Horizon Mercy hold health and Internet symposium

By Gilda Rogers

UNION — Kean University was the site for a recent symposium hosted by Horizon Mercy entitled "Building Better Community Health Through the Internet."

Leaders from more than 200 community-based organizations packed the second-floor conference room of University Center where they were informed of the benefits of the Internet as it applies to health-related issues.

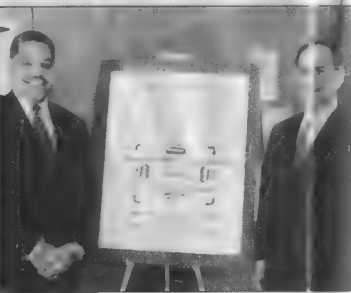
A powerful resource in reaching the masses, the Internet was presented as a very useful tool in aiding, augmenting and serving the needs of the various community-based organizations gathered.

"You need to understand the medium of the net," said HealthScout director, James Irwin, who was one of the members of the distinguished panel, which included Linda J. Holmes, author and executive director, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Minority Health and Bill Jamison, Web Site manager, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Communication. Irwin continued "Using the web to get stuff done, but let's use it as a tool to actually initiate some change. It is not a passive resource for information, it is a powerful proactive tool."

Whether it's finding information on pediatric asthma, where no cost lead screenings are taking place or where free need transportation is available for the elderly, the conference gave the community groups information on accessing the answers through the Internet.

The collaborative effort between the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and Horizon Mercy, whose president and CEO, Bertram Scott, spoke at the conference, also shed light on the health disparities that exist between black and white people.

"I'm gonna hit you with what we call the bottom line," said Holmes. "The disparity that exist in infant mortality is not



Bertram Scott (left), president and CEO, Horizon Mercy and Ronald Appio, president, Kean University at the "Building Better Community Health Through the Internet" conference at Kean University.

black babies are three times likely to die than a white baby. A white male born a decade ago is likely to live to be 75 years old, whereas a black male will live to be 65 years old."

The state health department along with Horizon Mercy partnered to improve the health in minorities with its "Peer Project," which focused on asthma, a critical health issue in urban communities.

"On asthma prevention we brought communities and churches together," said Holmes. "Sometimes the community don't trust the messenger they don't talk the same, don't talk the same language." Through the "Peer Project," those barriers were broken down, according to Holmes.

"We tapped resources to use people who can overcome this mistrust," she said. "We

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Source: Eugene M. McNamee, Jr., M.D.

Published every Wednesday

City News takes a look at
the health issues on the minds
of African Americans in a
special section titled
"Heartbeat."

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City News B4

February 18 — February 22, 2000

MUSIC NOTES

Houston set to film "Diva" biopic



Will Smith

Whitney Houston is now in negotiations to play an opera singer named Cynthia Hawkins in a remake of the 1980s French film "Diva."

The film, which gained cult classic status for its quick cuts, acting, and soundtrack and directed by Jean-Jacques Beineix, was optioned by Curb Entertainment, Will Smith's production company who has been trying to produce the project for years.

The rights were originally optioned first to Diana Ross whose option expired a year and half ago.

The film will be co-produced by Smith's company and Houston's. Brouhouse Productions and the screenplay will be written by Rick Cleveland.

The plot of the original movie is that opera singer Cynthia Hawkins, a black woman, refuses to be recast. An eager fan secretly tapes Hawkins during a concert and then becomes the subject of a pursuit by two groups, one who thinks the tape contains evidence of murder, and the second who wants to make money from the recording.

Houston previous roles have included "The Preacher's Wife," 1996 "Waiting to Exhale," 1997, and "The Bodyguard" 1992.

Evans, Blige to perform at B.I.G. foundation event

Voletta Wallace, mother of the late Notorious B.I.G., is planning a benefit event in honor of her son in March, around the third year anniversary of her son's death.

The event, banking off its success of its inaugural "B.I.G. Night," will feature Mary J. Blige, Faith Evans, and Carl Thomas (who sung the hook on Puffy's remix of "Been Around the World"), and MTV's Ananda Lewis and music industry veteran Ron Grant will host the event.

The event will honor Raymond John, Carl Brown, J. Alexander Martin, and Keith Perrin the founders of FUBU clothing line, for their charitable work through the FUBU Foundation.

The event last year raised \$20,000 for the Christopher Wallace Foundation, which provides books and computers to youth from the Wallace's old Brooklyn neighborhood. There are current plans to build a community center in B.I.G.'s name.

Houston, Santana to perform at Grammys

Whitney Houston, Santana, and TLC are scheduled to perform at the Grammys on February 23 in Los Angeles, which will be hosted by Rosie O'Donnell.

Santana's "Supernatural" racked up eleven nominations, TLC's "Fanmail" gathered eight nominations, and Houston's "My Love Is Your Love" received five nominations.

TLC will also be honored by the city of Atlanta, Georgia, where they will receive a key to the city.

Alex Bugnon keeps promise to fans with new LP

By Rob Williams III

When most fans meet the music artists they adore, they ask for autographs.

For jazz keyboardist Alex Bugnon, fans, they had more than just an autograph on mind.

"When I was on the road, people kept asking me 'when is the next album coming out?' It's coming soon, I promise," said Bugnon in a telephone interview from his home in Hudson Valley, New York.

For Bugnon, this album was not just another album, but a special one since it was the first release since his last album, "Tales From the Bright Side, on his previous label, RCA, in 1995.

"The previous label (RCA) did not want to let me go, and I did. I did not want to do what they wanted me to do, said Bugnon who is now signed to Narada Jazz label, based in Milwaukee, Wis.

Much like the situation Prince went through with Warner Bros., this music genius of jazz was faced with the choice of whether to wait this situation out and risk falling out of the public eye, or to go along with what his label wanted and put

his musical integrity on the back burner Bugnon chose the latter. "Something like that could put a halt to your career. Big I would rather put my career on a halt than go in the wrong direction," Bugnon said.

Bugnon's choice turned out to be a beneficial one, as he was eventually released from his contract by 1998, and went to work on his next release, "A Promise," — a reminder to his fans of his commitment to his word.

"I chose to wait. I always knew what was better for me," Bugnon said.

Bugnon's latest project not only features talent that has not been recorded since 1993, but other well known artists who share Bugnon's genuine talent and insight into the genre of jazz.

Some of the artists on the album include Gerald Albright, Victor Bailey, Hubert Eaves IV, Lalah Hathaway, Michael "Dino" Campbell, Bashiri Jackson, Brandford Marsalis, and Bruce Flowers.

Bugnon also brings along familiar contemporary figures from other music genres, including, Christopher Williams who is

featured on the song "All That I Can Say," the sensual melody from Mary J. Blige's "Mary" release.

Bugnon also featured newcomer Angie Stone, whose voice Bugnon felt was custom made for the song, "Won't Be A Fool."

The song I had was a very specific song. Not everybody could sing it. I needed the perfect voice for the song. I heard her voice on TV and from her video on BET," Bugnon said.

It just happened in Bugnon's favor that his guitarist Campbell had rehearsed with Stone, and eventually gave her a copy of the song, which she liked and recorded.

Marsalis and Albright added their saxophone finesse on the songs on "Chasing Spirals," and As Promised," respectively.

"It was nice to have some saxophone as accompanying the piano I added them (Albright and Marsalis) to make a nice, overall good album. People love saxophone and so I."

In addition to the guests on the album, Bugnon's previous work has been largely without the presence of guest singers and musicians, Bugnon also enjoyed



Alex Bugnon

the freedom to do what he wanted.

"I had total control. I just did it (the album) and gave it (the album) to them (Narada Jazz)," Bugnon said.

Bugnon will promote his album through a nationwide tour beginning in March, with locations still being decided at press

time.

With experience comes wisdom, and for Bugnon, commitment is a lesson he's learned, and demonstrated by example.

"Just keep going at it," said Bugnon. "You always have to strive to get better."

New music show crosses 'SNL' and 'In Living Color' with rap

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

For almost 10 years, the Lyricalist Lounge has been synonymous with underground hip-hop programming. The showcase for unknown rap artists struggling to break into the mainstream of Fox's Brown.

In fact, both stars worked Lyricalist Lounge crowds with their skills before they ever posted multimillion album sales or graced magazine covers.

"When we saw Foxy Brown she still was special because she was only 14 at the time, and she was a kickass tighter rhymes than the majority of the people in the spot," says Danny Castro, 25, who helped start the Lounge.

"We knew that she was going to have a time to like, blow up."

Now the Lounge creators are hoping to provide even more exposure for up-and-coming artists with "The Lyricalist Lounge Show," which debuted on MTV Feb. 8.

Based in part on comedy sketches performed by The Notorious B.I.G. gained notoriety on the hip-hop rap scene before he became famous after the lyrics "Yes, also hip-hop artists release of his first album Ready to Die" from the Lounge.

The rap skits are the most original and entertaining part of the show, which can hit or miss with its irreverent and raunchy brand of humor. The show also features guest appearances from Lounge alumni like Eminem and Mr. D. Ten half-hour episodes were taped, and it may eventually become a regular MTV series.

"It was just a natural progression for the Lyricalist Lounge to go into television, and I'm pleased because it was groundbreaking, in terms of having a show that is comedy and also rhyme-sketch together," says Anthony Marshall, 26, another Lounge creator. "Certain sketches are kind of like urban opera, because its rhyming and a song song type of thing in a story line."

The Lounge has already grown exponentially since it was started in 1991 by Marshall and Castro, then just teens immersed in the rap scene, breakdancing in videos and rapping with friends.

"We really didn't know that we had many industry people at the time we first started Lyricalist Lounge. It was mainly for our peers that were around us that were getting into rhyming and just making tunes," says Castro. "We saw that there was no outlet for

them to go to rehearse their skills and also get exposure from the public."

What started off as an open-mike showcase in a Manhattan studio space owned by a friend, grew so popular that it branched out to clubs around the country. The Lounge soon added the eyes of record industry bigwigs like Sean "Puffy" Combs, who used one Lounge showcase to introduce an unknown B.I.G.

Small, aka the Notorious B.I.G. "Eventually, word of mouth went around, more and more people started coming and we realized how powerful it was," Castro says.

As the Lounge grew in influence, Marshall and Castro joined Perry Landenberg, a Lyricalist Lounge fan who had a clothing company, to create Open MIC Records. The fledgling label linked with Rawkus Entertainment to distribute the first single from Lounge regular Mos Def, who has been internationally acclaimed.

Columbia Law School student Jacob Septimus, 27, also entered the mix when he began filming Lounge showcases for the group and offering free legal advice. Eventually, he became a partner in the venture, and Open MIC Records evolved into MIC Media, broadening from record and showcases to merchandising, television projects and Internet deals.

The way we set up the company now is such that if we had an artist that we're excited about, we can get them a record deal, we can put them on TV, we can get them appearances in films, we can put them on the tour, we can get them advertising contracts," says Septimus.

The budding mogul says their main goal is doing what's best for the artist. After watching many artists get ripped off by record companies or get lost in the avalanche of wannabes, they hope to make sure their artists don't succumb to the pressures of

the industry.

"We don't just do deals with people — we try to help them with their lives. Because if you do a deal with someone who doesn't have their life together, that deal is not really worth it," says Marshall.

And MIC Media appears to have the trust of its artists. Take Tony Matthews, known as Master Pood, who was on "The Lyricalist Lounge Show" and has been signed to a record deal with the

company.

"Ain't nobody going to come here and try and change your style, and change what you've already accomplished," he said. "It's like, up here, you can be you. Anywhere else you go, they might want to candy coat it right here, the artist knows best."

Matthews credits the Lounge showcase with giving him an outlet other than the streets. "I was one of them wild kids on the

block with a whole bunch of energy, who was either going to do good or do bad," he says.

"I was on the wrong road, and what happened was I ran into an older guy and he was like, 'You've got a lot of energy, and you need to take that energy and direct it into something.'"

Eventually, MIC Media hopes to provide more outlets for youth, on a grander scale.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Brother Eric Ture Muhammad explores the origins of the slave trade of Africans in the State of New Jersey. Presentation starts at 7 p.m.

NEWARK - Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music" at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. The time it's showing is 1:30 & 7:30 p.m. For more information call: 596-0800.

NEWARK - African American History Month Program starting at 8:30 p.m. For more information about the program call 733-7735.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

ELIZABETH - Rickie Joyce will be performing at the Union County College. Concert starts at 7 p.m.

NEWARK - New Community Corporation Concert featuring Victor Jones at 7:15 p.m. at The Priority @ St. Joseph Plaza. For more information call 638-7848.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

NEW BRUNSWICK - The State Theater presents "Smiley Joe's Cafe" at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. For more information call (908) 526-8500 ext. 7219.

BRIDGEWATER - Rags and Hot Piano featuring pianists Sue Koller, Jeff Barnhart and Tex Wyndham. Concert begins at 8 p.m. For more information call (908) 526-8500 ext. 7219.

NEWARK - New Jersey Historical Society is hosting a family program, become a NJHS Detective 10-5 p.m. For more information call 596-8500.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center presents Roger and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music" at 1:30 & 7:30 p.m. For more information call 596-8500.

NEWARK - The New Jersey Performing Arts Center presents "My Lord, My Lord" by Anderson .03y Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration 2-7 p.m. For more information call 888-62-NJPCA.

NEWARK - Art opening & Reception for the Artists Family Time Center and clinical Psychologist, and African-American Artist, Janet Taylor Pickett, beginning at 6:00 p.m. For more information call 643-7883.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

NEWARK - NJ Performing Arts Center presents a special homecoming concert with Newark's Own Counterpoint Derek Lee Pagan and Paniel Keen Sharpe at 2:00 p.m. in the Victoria Theater. For more information, call (201) 297-2434.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

BROOKLYN - 651 Arts Theater presents "Black Dance/Tradition and Transformation". The production demonstrates 651's commitment to further Black Arts. Call (718) 636-4100 for additional information.

NEWARK - A salute to Broadway featuring favorite show tunes will be held 7:30 p.m. in the Prudential Hall, NJ Performing Arts Center (NJRPC).

BROOKLYN - 651 ARTS presents a new annual dance program which features the history, present and future of Black choreography at 8 p.m. at the BAM Harvey Theater through February 19th. For more information, call (718) 636-4181.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

NEWARK - The Shirelles will be performing at the Essex County College in the Mary Birch Theatre. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Reserve your seats now. Call (973) 677-4420.

NEWARK - A salute to Broadway featuring favorite show tunes will be held 8:00 p.m. in the Prudential Hall, NJ Performing Arts Center (NJRPC).

NEW YORK - Jazz at Lincoln Center presents pianist, Paul Bley & bassist, Charlie Haden and pianist, Kenny Barron & alto saxophonist Gary Bartz at 8:00 p.m. For more information call (212) 721-6200.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

RED BANK - Metropolitan Entertainment Group presents Mortalney who will be performing at the Court Esale Theatre at 8 p.m. for more information, call (212) 966-4600.

NEWARK - The Newark Public Library is showing in Theater "Black America On Stage". Show will begin at 6 p.m. For more information call 733-7735.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

ENGLEWOOD - Nancy Wilson and Vanessa Rubin will be performing for the Artist Ouretes Series, at the John Harris Center for the Arts. Show starts at 8 p.m. call (201) 567-7357 for additional information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

NEWARK - New Jersey Historical Society is hosting a presentation on "Women's History" at 12:15-1 p.m. For more information call 596-8900.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

TRENTON - Vocalist Monica Mancini joins David Comandrey and who will be performing at the Wm Memorial at 8:00 p.m. at the Wm Memorial. For more information, call (973) 624-3715.

Tavis Smiley gives us five lessons to live by

By Yolanda Young

(NNPA) — It would be easy to envy Tavis Smiley, host of BET Tonight and Tom Joyner Morning Show commentator, but he is too nice a guy.

Instead of arrogance, he generously dispenses encouragement, inspiration and spiritual wisdom. The things that separate Tavis are those the eye can easily miss, but they are lessons we can all live by.

Lesson #1 — Don't Forget where Your blessings Come From.

Smiley said his success is basically a blessing from God. He grew up in Kokomo, Ind., attending New Bethel Pentecostal Church where his mother, Joyce Smiley, is an associate minister.

The family of 13 lived in a three-bedroom trailer. Smiley shared one bathroom with his six brothers and used cardboard to cover holes in his shoes.

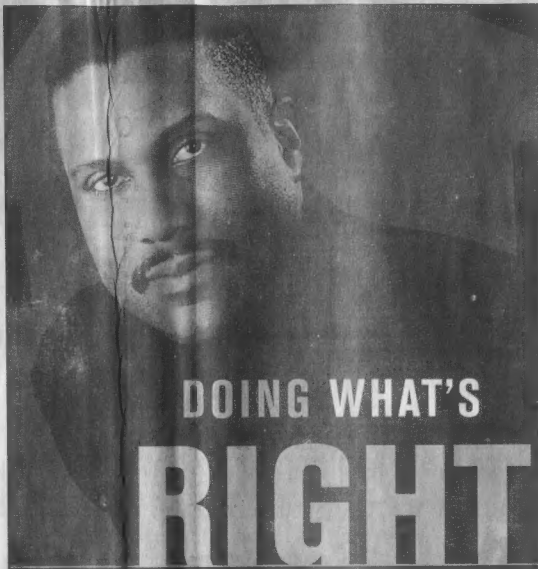
"I remember being 13 years of age, on my knees praying to God that I ever got a chance to get out. I would spend the rest of my life doing what I could to empower people," Smiley said. "I would never become selfish or make my number one goal or priority to enrich myself or spend my time becoming a celebrity."

Smiley hasn't forgotten what got him here or what keeps him on track.

"I always pray, 'not my will, but Thou will be done,'" he said. "If it's not in His plan for me, then somewhere down the line it's going to cause me some difficulties. If it's going to cause me to lose my mind, cause me to get heady and high-minded, if it is going to damage my integrity, damage my relationship with You, I pray that that opportunity passes right over me."

Lesson #2 — Work Hard.

Smiley is up at 6 a.m. weekdays doing his commentary on the radio-syndicated "Tom Joyner Morning Show." He's back on the air live at 11 p.m. hosting "BET Tonight" with Tavis Smiley.



The show is a metaphor for Smiley, who is part teacher, part hip hopper — be it a small part — part advocate, and part public servant. He strings this mix together with intelligence and wit.

In-between his two signature gigs, Smiley works in interviews, book signings and speaking engagements while fighting off drowsiness, eye puffiness, and for a while, a stalker.

"If you work hard," he said. "Life typically rewards those who put forth a greater amount of effort."

"I plan my life one year at a time. Every year on my birthday — Sept. 13 — I spend my birthday alone doing two things: one, trying to reassess how to I did over the last year."

Lesson #3 — Put Some Power Where Your Mouth Is.

In case you've missed his adumors, here's an update. Smiley spent the Monday before the November 3rd election day conducting President Bill Clinton's first interview since the Monica Lewinsky story broke. He recently exposed a scheduled auction of slave paraphernalia by Christie's and a company memo that circulated at Katz Advertising discouraging advertising with black media. In both cases, he went to the airwaves, and his legion of supporters jammed phone lines, eventually forcing both companies' presidents to surrender their previous plans.

Lesson #4 — Keep It Simple.

While in Washington D.C., BET pays for Smiley's plush accommodations in one of the city's finest hotels and provides him with a beautiful Continental and his own driver, Frank. Still, he stays humble.

At home, his king-sized bed is held by the floor. And, under no circumstances, will he ride in a limousine.

"I think they're obnoxious, loud, and ostentatious," he said. "On top of all that, they draw attention to you. I have found that when you act like a celebrity, people treat you like one. They ride up in an entourage. They've got a motorcade."

Smiley said he has discovered that if he acts like a normal human being, he'll be treated like a normal human being.

"I am very serious about maintaining my life in as close a manner now as I've always lived it," he said. "I am not trying to dramatically change my lifestyle. I don't want to travel with an entourage of people. I don't want to hang out at all the Hollywood parties. I want to stay the way I've always been. The people around me know that and they don't get caught up."

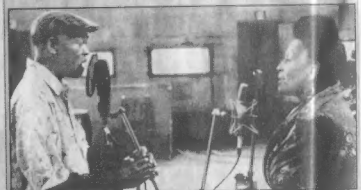
Lesson #5 — Plan Life One Year At A Time.

"I plan my life one year at a time," Smiley said. "Every year on my birthday — Sept. 13 — I spend my birthday alone doing two things: one, trying to reassess how to I did over the last year. Rather than set New Year's resolutions, I do it on my birthday. I then plan things out for the year to come."

I'm going to try Smiley's principles for living and see what happens next.

Yolanda Young is a motivational speaker, syndicated columnist and attorney living in Washington, D.C. A graduate of Howard University and Georgetown University Law Center, she is currently compiling her memoir. Email yolanda.young@yahoo.com or fax her at (508) 374-5994.

Ibrahim Ferrer, Ruben Gonzalez to perform at Grammy Awards



Ibrahim Ferrer (pictured above with Omara Portuondo) and Ruben Gonzalez, both stars of the Grammy Award winning platinum recording "Buena Vista Social Club," are touring the United States visiting 10 cities as audience demand has left many concerts sold out. But the two will have a chance to reach fans across the world as they will perform live from Los Angeles at the Grammy Awards on February 23.

Whitney Houston Foundation gives African Globe Studios \$2,500 grant



Whitney Houston

NEWARK — House of Poetry @ African Globe Studios (HOP) is proud to announce it has received a grant from the Whitney Houston Foundation for Children, Inc. in the amount of \$2,500. This grant will allow for African Globe Studios to present the workshop, "Get Yo Rap On," to selected students in grades 7-12 who are enrolled in the Newark Public Schools free of charge. House of Poetry is a weekly poetry series that spotlights a featured poet/spoken word artist and open mic readings by the community.

"Get Yo Rap On" is an intensive, interactive, and most of all fun. The program will culminate in a public community reading in the workshop. While a professional poet will provide primary instruction, students will also have the opportunity to work with a professional actor who will teach the elements of live performance, music, and a visual artist. The 10-session workshop is scheduled to begin in April.



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TRANSIT PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION FISCAL YEAR 2000 REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT), under provisions of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), gives notice of its intent to apply for \$154.84 million under 49 U.S.C. Section 5307 for operating, capital, and planning assistance, \$305.41 million for capital projects under Section 5310 for transportation services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and \$23.96 million under Section 5311 for transportation in rural areas. It is also NJ TRANSIT's intent to apply for \$10.00 million of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds and \$2.00 million under the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program authorized by TEA-21.

Federal operating funds will be matched as required with funds provided by the State of New Jersey and local recipients in accordance with Federal and State guidelines. NJ TRANSIT intends to provide such Federal State of capital projects through credit for rail revenues and State funds committed to Urban Core projects as allowed by TEA-21. The Fiscal Year 2000 program is described below.

Proposed Section 5307 Formula Operating and Capital Program (In Millions of Dollars)

Project	Federal
Operating Assistance	0.42
Morristown Yard Improvements	15.57
Rail Preventive Maintenance	41.30
Hoboken Yard Rehabilitation	6.19
Newark Penn Station Improvements	2.80
Newark Broad Street Station Improvements	2.80
Park Preserving Maintenance	58.94
Penn Station, New York Improvements	1.00
Newark-Elizabeth Rail Link Construction	4.09
Building Capital Leases	8.48
Capital Automatic Passenger Counters	3.20
Purchase Light Rail Vehicles	6.06
Massachusetts Bus Support Facilities and Equipment	0.19
Newark City Subway Station Improvements	-3.70
Total	188.02

Proposed Section 5309 Fixed Guideway Modernization Formula Program (In Millions of Dollars)

Project	Federal
Bridge Rehabilitation	7.78
Signal Rehabilitation/Improvements	20.42
Signals and Communication/Electrical Traction Upgrades	11.28
Rail Support Facilities Improvements	5.33
Rolling Stock Overhaul	13.20
Rail Preventive Maintenance	14.83
Total	79.83

Proposed Section 5309 New Start Bus Programs (In Millions of Dollars)

Project	Federal
Purchase Buses	7.85
South Jersey Intermodal Transportation Initiative	1.23
West Trenton Rail Line Study	0.89
Newark-Elizabeth Rail Link Construction	11.77
Trenton-Hudson Midtown Corridor Study	4.90
Newark Intermodal Improvements	8.23
Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Transit System Construction	82.13
Total	126.48

Proposed Section 149 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (In Millions of Dollars)

Project	Federal
Railroad Interlocking Improvements	2.85
Monitor Congestion Construction	5.00
Bus Emission Control	-2.15
Total	10.00

(continued on next column)

A. Property Acquisition/Environmental, Economic, and Social Aspects

Any property acquisition or relocation that may be required will be conducted in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the New Jersey regulatory framework, including the environmental, economic, and relocation aspects of the projects will be investigated. If required under applicable laws and regulations, written findings will be presented to a future public hearing and further public comment will be solicited. Prior to the implementation of any of the projects and to the extent required, NJ TRANSIT may prepare an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to Federal regulations. The availability of this document will be made known by publication in the same manner as the notice for NJ TRANSIT will adhere to all Federal statutes and regulations affecting properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

B. Comprehensive Planning

NJ TRANSIT projects are developed in coordination with the following planning organizations: The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, which is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Northeast New Jersey Urbanized area; the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, which is the designated MPO for Camden, Mercer, Burlington, and Gloucester counties; and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, which is the designated MPO for Cumberland, Salem, Atlantic, and Cape May counties. The MPOs are the forum for local decision-making concerning the proposed projects. The projects are developed in consultation with local elected officials, interested citizens, and providers of public services.

C. Private Enterprise Participation

Through the comprehensive planning process administered by the MPOs and ongoing communication with NJ TRANSIT, Office of Private Enterprise Affairs, NJ TRANSIT continues to discuss with private carriers their participation in the capital program. In addition, NJ TRANSIT encourages, to the maximum extent possible, the participation of private sector in the development and implementation of public transportation in the State of New Jersey.

D. Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities

Services to be provided will be consistent with NJ TRANSIT's program of reduced interstate and intrastate reduced bus fares for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Every reasonable effort will be made to plan and design program elements involving facilities generally available to the public with careful consideration of the special needs of senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

E. Public Involvement

NJ TRANSIT invites public comments on the above projects and on performance evaluation comments and/or requests for a public hearing may be sent to NJ TRANSIT, Office of Private Enterprise Affairs, NJ TRANSIT, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07102-2249 by March 20, 2000. Based on comments received in response to this notice and information made available, NJ TRANSIT may modify the above program before final transit in the Federal Transit Administration and will make a determination, pursuant to FTA regulations, as to whether a public hearing is in order. The above list of proposed projects will be the final list of projects unless notification is given in the same or prior to this public notice.

Jeffrey A. Wozniak
Executive Director
New Jersey Transit Corporation

\$370.06

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received by the Housing Authority of the Town of Morristown (hereinafter called the Authority) at the County of Morris, State of New Jersey, at the Administrative Office of the Authority, located at 31 Early St., Morristown, NJ, on Monday, April 17, 2000, at 10:00 a.m., prevailing time. All bids will be opened publicly at said office at that time for: **EXTERIOR SIG. SERVICES - PROJECT NO. NJ023-001 THROUGH 006 - FAMILY & SENIOR PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS** for a single complete contract. The Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in bids & to reject any & all bids if it is in the best interest of the Authority to do so.

Bids shall be accompanied by a certified check or Bid Bond in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid, not to exceed \$20,000.00.

The Contract Documents are on file & can be obtained at the Administrative Office of the Authority. **DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE MAILED.**

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish an acceptable Performance & Labor & Material Payment Bond to the Authority in the full amount of the Contract in such form as the Authority may prescribe & with such Sureties as they may approve.

All Bidders must be authorized to do business in New Jersey. Any Bidder which is a corporation not chartered under the Laws of the State of New Jersey must submit an affidavit certifying that said corporation is authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of Public Law 1975, c. 127, which pertains to "Non-Discrimination & Affirmative Action," Public Law 1977, c. 23, which refers to a Statement of Corporate Citizenship.

David Gendner
Executive Director

\$50.67

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POLICE OFFICER EXAMINATION

Applications are now being accepted for the Year 2000 New Jersey Department of Personnel Examination for entry level Law Enforcement Titles, including Municipal Police Officer. Applications can be picked up until February 25, 2000 at the Clark Police Department, 24 hours a day, at the Business Administrator's Office or Township Clerk's Office in Town Hall, 430 Westfield Avenue, and at the Clark Public Library, 200 Westfield Avenue, during normal business hours. The last day for filing applications is February 25th. The test will be administered between May and June. Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age at the time of filing. Clark Township is an equal opportunity employer.

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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REFERENCE # NJ-00-015-0003
PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08620-5000

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Ponder This...

By Craig Moore

Misbehaving athletes: It's a two way street

The recent rash of tragic and criminal incidents involving sports stars has sparked serious debate regarding the judgmental, behavioral and maturity deficiencies plaguing some modern day athletes.

Unfortunately, these discussions have been fairly one sided on the issue of blame. That is, how should blame be apportioned for the creation of a climate which has given rise to the reckless mentalities which afflict some athletes?

The George W. Bush in us quickly points the finger of blame at the misbehaving athletes themselves. To be sure, any meaningful discourse on this point should begin with an exploration into the culpability of athletes, but that discourse surely should not end there.

Maybe Bobby Philia and Derrick Thomas could have avoided life-ending car accidents had they driven their cars more responsibly. Perhaps Ray Lewis and Rae Carruth, if innocent — which I presume they are — could have circumvented their respective legal troubles if they had exercised better judgment in selecting their club-hopping partners. And might Keith Ellis and Wayne Chrebet have avoided similarly convicted careers had they just simply walked away from, rather than dive head first into a brawl at a bar?

Clearly, all of the aforementioned athletes exercised bad judgment or misbehaved, but misbehavior as a concept should not be viewed abstractly.

Behaviorists such as Pavlov have long recognized that behavior is, by and large, a pattern of conduct which can be influenced by various stimuli. For example, if you want to discourage a child from engaging in misbehavior, you punish that child. Likewise, if you wish to encourage certain conduct, you reward the child.

Over time, certain behavioral characteristics and tendencies take root, and in most cases, you should wind up with a law abiding citizen. In other words, good behavior is not a cognitive trait, but rather a learned one. And misbehavior as misbehaving athletes are concerned, therein lies the rub.

In America, we not only confer athletes special treatment, we deify them. Athletes in this country are the beneficiaries of a perverse manifestation of idolatry which pervades society in general, and high schools, colleges, universities, and even the law enforcement community in particular.

Two years ago, Chris Webber was cited for driving without his license on his person.

I'd wager that Webber didn't carry his license because he simply thought he did not have to. I'd also wager that Webber thought he did not have to carry his license because whenever he gets pulled over, he gives more autographs than receives tickets. In this same vein, during the O.J. Simpson trial, it was revealed that on several occasions, the cops who responded to domestic violence calls from O.J.'s home did little more than ask for the Jeter's autograph.

And Allen Iverson sat in a Virginia jail until the Governor commuted his sentence. However valid the commutation — it was — how many other brothers remain in jail based on evidence and charges even more suspicious than those which landed Iverson behind bars?

And fresh out of jail, where did Iverson go? A work release program perhaps? No.

Despite his less than exemplary high school record, Iverson nobly landed at Georgetown University, our President's alma mater, and one of the most prestigious institutions in the country.

My intention here is not to play-hate Iverson, but to question society's practice of promoting athletes from numerous rules as early as their high school years, and then criticizing those same athletes later down the road when they fail to adhere to those same rules. Sure athletes should be held to the same standards like everybody else.

By Martin C. Summers

Although the man called Hurricane looks no where near death, his boxing career died because of the events during the prodding morning hours of June 17, 1966.

In the murky aftermath of three white persons gunned down at a bar in Paterson, New Jersey, hometown middleweight contender and known convict, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter was fingered as the trigger man for this triple-murder.

Some contended that the contender, along with co-defendant, John Artis, committed the murders as revenge for a local black man killed by white perpetrators. On the other hand, others suggested that he was simply linked to the murders as retribution for his comment that black folk should use guns to survive in a racist American police state. And still others said, he may have done it just because he was just mean.

But the only "real" evidence against him seemed to be that of a couple of white ex-cons who claimed to have eye witnessed Carter at the scene of the crime who changed their story as often as someone would change their underwear. Never flinching about his innocence, he fought the powers that be for the next twenty-years, and his conviction was overturned.

In 1985, his two-decade stay in hell ended after a federal district court ordered Carter to be released because the State's conviction was based on a racist inspired prosecution that conspired to have eye witnessed Carter at the scene of the crime who changed their story as often as someone would change their underwear. Never flinching about his innocence, he fought the powers that be for the next twenty-years, and his conviction was overturned.

In a nutshell, Rubin Carter was behind bars because he was a bold-headed black man, goateed down who spoke his peace with his fists and his words.

Now, Hurricane tells the tale. Just released nationally,

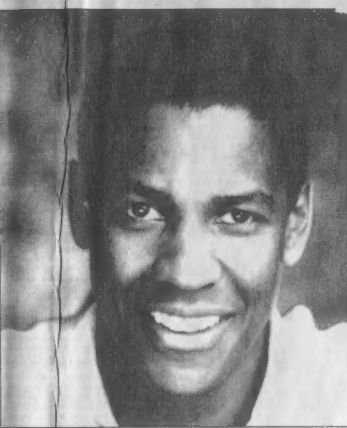
The Hurricane, starring Denzel Washington, is about the 62-year-old American sports icon who lives and works in Toronto, Canada. He spent a good part of his childhood and young adult life incarcerated. Then after a brief respite, which was the time that he became an acclaimed prizefighter, he spent the next twenty years caged for a crime that he was ultimately exonerated for.

During his incarceration, he channeled his once threatened demeanor and rhetoric to peacefulness. Some would say that it was almost an exorcism. So he wanted to meet the Hurricane, but since he vows never to return to his Jersey, I must follow the axiom: If the mountain won't come to Mohammed, Mohammed will go to the mountain.

But the mountain isn't taking visitors. Thus, I can't ask how it was for him while in prison when he slept during the day to awaken at night to go about his business. Business that included reading literature about the lives of men like Malcolm X and tirelessly working on his release like taking endless body shots to the misdirection. So I confer with others.

Rubin was a mean cat. He was a product of the system. Much like Sonny Liston who spent time in jail, he was the last of his weight-class. Rubin spent a good part of his life in institutions and that has to affect someone. Those are the words of Larry Hazzard, a longstanding New Jersey Boxing Commissioner, former amateur boxer and former renowned referee who grew up in the guts of Hurricane-in and around North Jersey, a few years young in boxing talent.

But William "Bucky" Leggett II, a former amateur boxer himself whose father was a prison guard at Trenton State Prison



As Denzel Washington portrayed Carter in the Hollywood version of the story, 'Hurricane.'

where Rubin Carter served time became his first professional manager/trainer, witnessed the metamorphosis. Leggett says, "In the prison world, he was the hardest dude walking, but he honed his instinctive boxing skills with a tough mental attitude that would intimidate boxers, handlers, promoters and anyone in the fight game." He also adds, "He was an athletic phenom. He took a punch without even giving the appearance that it fazed him. And his skin was as smooth as black leather that allowed you to see the origin of every muscle he had."

In just three years after his first fight for the loot, he entered the ring for the world middleweight championship. On December 14, 1964, he was 21-3 and faced the champion Joey Giardello. But the decision went to Giardello. "I was there and he was robbed and everyone knew it. But it wasn't a shock that he lost because Rubin couldn't be controlled like most fighters. He was going to have to knockout Giardello out," Leggett says. After that fight, he finished up 7-7-1. But his greatest victory didn't come in the ring but in a cell.

There he conquered hate.

Sports Shorts

UNSCRUPULOUS ATHLETE AGENTS BILL APPROVED

TRENTON — Assembly Consumer Affairs and Regulated Professions Committee approved a bill Assembly Deputy Democratic leader Neil M. Cohen sponsored to crack down on abusive and fraudulent practices by sports agents who sign high school and college athletes to exploitative contractual deals.

"The time has come for the state to make a concerted effort to establish some rules for sports agents so they don't run the lives of young amateur athletes who have the potential to eventually win a job with a professional team," said Cohen (D-Union). The bill (A-1024) would place New Jersey in the vanguard of states that have begun to regulate or license individuals who attempt to broker the services of professional and amateur athletes.

COLGATE WOMEN'S GAMES FOURTH PRELIMINARY MEET DETERMINES SEMI-FINALISTS

BROOKLYN — From an original field of more than 11,000 some 450 East Coast women have preserved meets at Pratt Institute to win semi-finalist spots in the nation's largest indoor track series. These top point scorers in each age-grade division continue to lead the nation with their scores and times.

RUTGERS REJECTS PROPOSALS TO REFORM TO BIG-TIME SPORTS

NEW BRUNSWICK — Rutgers University has turned down a 10-point proposal to academically distinguish university from other members of the sport's athletic conference. The proposal was made by the alumni council of Rutgers 1900. Included in the proposal were awarding scholarships to athletes with SAT scores matching the average freshman.

'Big House' Gaines and Eddie Robinson help celebrate HBCUs



Nyquil's Patrick Davis (far right) is pictured with two major college sports legends — Chris "Big House" Gaines (left), one of the most winningest basketball coaches in NCAA history, and Coach Eddie Robinson (center), the most winningest football coach in NCAA history. The Nyquil Scholastic Remy Sweepstakes award more than \$28,000 in scholarship prize money.

Gridiron heroes push youth to the meet goals

LOS ANGELES — The National Football League Retired Players Association has hosted a super bowl party featuring a movie-sized view of the big game, live entertainment, autographed footballs from football greats and a powerful anti-drug message for local youth to grab onto.

"We know we are heroes to these kids, and if we can't use our status to help them achieve their goals in life, then what value is it?" said Reggie Berry, former San Diego Charger, and president of 'Goals for Life'.

"First down adn goal to go" for the gridiron hero is getting kids past the trap of drugs. Their annual Super Bowl party produced by "Goals for Life," the Association's year-round mentoring program, urges teens to focus on their goals to avoid the trap of drug abuse and the accompanying destructive life style. Leads to. In the face of nationwide polls reporting 11 million teen "heavy drinkers" and 100 children trying alcohol and another 50 starting to use drugs in the U.S. every day, the problem remains daunting.

Helping to get the message across at the AMC Civic Center theatre in Norwalk, Cal., where the event was held, were Native American Apache dancers and



Former Chicago Bear Phil Thomas with one of program participants.

the Drug-Free Marshalls of the Church of Scientology Celebrity Centre International. They used entertainment to reach out with their anti-drug message to several hundred teens and pre-teens who came together to watch the game, hear motivational speakers, and see the St. Louis Rams and Tennessee Titans.

The Apache dancers in full ceremonial dress used pounding drums, fast footwork, and the wail of the conch shell to urge youth to protect their health and stay away from cigarettes and alcohol. The Drug-Free Marshalls, a program



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